

Jordan Times

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Arafat urges Nathan to stop hunger strike

TEL AVTV (AP) - Israeli peace crusader Abie Nathan, in the 20th day

of a hunger strike to protest a law against talking to Palestine Liberation

Organisation (PLO) leaders, said Friday he got a message from Yasser Arafat beseeching him to start eating. "But I won't give up." Mr. Nathan said. "Even if the president of Israel or President Bush asked me to stop I wouldn't. Its my life and I have my reasons." Mr. Nathan's hunger strike is aimed at rescinding a 1986 law which forbids contacts with groups that

Israel considers "terrorist." Mr. Nathan, owner of the offshore "Voice of Peace" radio station, was jailed for four months in 1989 for meeting Mr. Arafat a year earlier. He faces trial for a second meeting. Contacted by telephone, Mr. Nathan said in a weak voice that he has lost 12 kilos during his water-only fast. He said a telefax signed by Mr. Arafat was sent to the Tel Aviv hotel where he has spent the hunger strike. "I am following in great appreciation your activities opposing the Israeli laws and measures that go against the genuine interests of our people, and peace and justice between the state of Palestine and Israel," Mr. Arafat wrote.

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AMMAN SATURDAY, MAY 18, 1991, THI AL QU'DEH 4, 1411

Masri to visit Turkey Tuesday

ANKARA (R) - Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri will arrive in Turkey on Tuesday on a four-day official visit, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said Friday. Mr. Masri will discuss post-Gulf war de-velopments in the region and bilateral ties with Turkish counterpart Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemocin, a ministry statement said.

Libvans flown to U.S. from Kenya

NAIROBI (R) - The United States said Friday it had flown 350 Libyans out of Kenya to new American homes but declined to comment on a report that they were the remnant of a force trained to overthrow Muammar Qadhafi. In a statement released by the U.S. embassy in Nairobi, the State Department said the men were former prisoners of war in Libya's southern neighbour Chad who feared persecution at home. It did not say when they were flown out. Friday's New York Times said the Libyans were part of a group of 600 who received guerrilla training from "American intelligence officials" during the 1980-88 Reagan presidency for an operation against Libya's leader that did not take place. The Libyans fled Chad last November, when Libya's ally Idriss Deby seized power there, and went to Zaire. Some decided to return to Libya but about 350 travelled to Kenya.

The Hague wants to expel Palestinian

THE HAGUE (AP) - The Dutch government is expelling a Palestinian labour activist considered a threat to pational security, a justice ministry spokesn said Friday. Ibra Baz's permanent residency status was revoked six weeks ago after the ministry was alerted by the domestic security service to what sookeswoman Jannie Pols termed dangerous" activities engaged in by Mr. Baz. She refused to elaborate on those activities, or how they endangered Dutch national security. Mr. Baz has filed an appeal with the justice ministry, which is due to be ruled on in two weeks. Ms Pols said. The 40-yearold Baz, who heads the General Union of Palestinian Workers, has been living in the Netherlands for 11 years and holds an Iraqi passport, the mass circulation daily The Telegraaf reported Thursday.

30 southern Sudanese killed in bombing

NAIROBI (AP) - Bombs dropped on a rebel-held southern Sudanese town killed more than 30 civilians, mostly women and children, in the single deadliest bombing since southern rebels took up arms eight years ago, a U.N. source said Friday. Eighteen bombs fell in and around the town of Nasir on Sudan's eastem border with Ethiopia Tuesday morning killing 27 people out-right and wounding more than 20. Three more people died of their injuries on Nasir's small airstrip as they and 17 others waited to be evacuated by U.N. aircraft to a hospital run by the International Committee of the Red Cross in the northern Kenyan town of Lokichokkio about 500 kilometres south, said a senior U.N. official. An unknown number of people died overnight, said the official.

Siad Barre 'would rather die fighting' than flee Somalia

ROME (R) - Mohammad Siad Barre, in hiding since rebels ousted him from power three months ago, has insisted he is still Somalia's legal president and pledged to die fighting rather than flee the country. "This is my country, my home. I will not go away, I will continue to fight to the death, even though I would like Somalis to solve their problems through dialogue," he said in an interview published Friday. He fled the capital Mogadishn in January after a month of street battles with rebels of the United Somali Congress, who have named an interim president.

Bush sees 'real cause for optimism' on peace

Israel says differences narrowed

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush said Friday he still sees "real cause for optimism" on prospects for a Middle East peace conference and the U.S. effort to promote one will continue unabated de-

spite apparent lack of progress. "My assessment... is that there is real cause for optimism and we will continue to work this process," Mr. Bush said in a brief conversation with reporters as he left for a weekend at the Camp David presidential retreat.

"We are not about to stop ... progress has been made," said Mr. Bush, who refused to go into any detail on why he felt so optimistic about prospects of getting Israel, Arab states and Palestinians around a conference

The president commented after being briefed by Secretary of State James Baker, who returned on Thursday night from his fourth Middle East shuttle-diplomacy mission since the Gulf war ended

Mr. Baker's trips to Israel, Syria, Jordan and in the region have apparently failed to resolve key differences blocking U.S. hopes of organising a peace conference covering all major Middle

"We're going to keep on working it from here, and if there's a reason for him to go back (to the Middle East) Israeli Defence Minister Moshe

he will," Mr. Bush said as Mr. Baker stood by his side.

Mr. Bush said "there's plenty of

He offered few details, except to point to a declaration by Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states that they would send observers to a peace

Mr. Baker noted that all sides had agreed that the basis for any peace conference would be two United Nations resolutions calling for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab

Said Mr. Bush: "Progress has been made and so when you're working a problem this complicated you just

eep plugging away." Mr. Bush said quiet diplomacy is required to gain agreement on the peace conference, and added, "I think the credibility of the United States is higher in the Middle East than ever before."

He praised Mr. Baker's efforts lavishly -- joking at one point that "it might kill him" if he had to undertake another trip to the Middle East. Mr. Baker returned home over-

night without agreement from any of the key Middle East leaders for Mr. Baker's plan of a conference to be jointly sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union. Israeli leaders said Mr. Baker had

narrowed the gap between their posi-tion and that of the Arab states on Middle East peace talks but they refused to detail the progress made.

"Mr. Baker is trying to reduce the gaps between us and the Arab states... my impression is that indeed

Mr. Baker, told Israel Television. Mr. Baker, who left Israel for Washington Thursday, said he was not disappointed at the end of his shuttle. But he confirmed that two issues — a possible conference role for the United Nations and the con-

ference structure -- were unresolved.

Mr. Arens said he believed some progress had been made in the most recent talks with Mr. Baker but he refused to elaborate.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Mr. Baker had secured agreement from the Jewish state on a number of issues, but he too refused to give details.

"There is no failure here. We agreed on a lot of things that are not yet for publication, things that pre-pare the ground to allow Baker to make close and positive contacts with the partners that are taken into account in the peace campaign."

Asked if he included Syria in the

list of "partners" the ground had been prepared for, Mr. Shamir said: 'Everyone is on the list."

"I don't think that anyone should have expected any breakthroughs. The peace process in the Middle East is a very slow one, because most of the Arab states are not interested in making peace with Israel," Mr. Arens said on Israel Radio. We should be very satisfied when

this slow proces goes forward. And I think we are achieving slow advancement," he said.

Mr. Arens said Israel was willing to go ahead even if Syria refuses to join the negotiating table.

(Continued on page 2)

Barzani reports accord on key points with government

BAGHDAD (Agencies) -- A top Kurdish leader said Friday he has agreed to key points with the Iraqi government on a plan for Kurdish autonomy and democracy throughout Iraq.

Massoud Barzani, whose Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) is the largest Kurdish guerrilla faction, also suggested Kurds have dropped their demand for international guarantees for the accord.

Mr. Barzani has been discussing Kurdish autonomy and democratic reform with the government for two weeks.

He gave no details of the agreement, saying they would be outlined at a Saturday news confer-

Mr. Barzani urged refugees who fled the fighting to return to

northern Iraq. Tens of thousands of Kurds fled to the mountains to escape the rebellion in the wake of the

Allied officials said Friday they

camps near Zakho in northern Iraq to house up to 100,000 Kurdish refugees on their way home. They plan up to five new temporary tent villages, each housing 20,000 refugees.

Coalition forces ran out of tents earlier this week but have found 35,000 tents at various locations around the globe, the Operation Provide Comfort task force said in a statement. The tents will be sent to Zakho.

Mr. Barzani told an impromptu news conference at a Baghdad hotel that he was optimistic an agreement with the government would be signed soon.

"We didn't reach full agreement, but we passed a very important step," Mr. Barzani said. We agreed with the government about the main points of the democracy."

A key demand of the Kurdish rebels has been wider participation of the Kurds in legislative and executive decisions. They have also called for democracy throughout Iraq. intend to build several more

They want full autonomy in three northern provinces where most of the 3.5 million Iraqi Kurds live, and a share of the revenue from lucrative oil fields located in the Kurdish region.

Baghdad's negotiating team, headed by President Saddam Hussein's deputy, Izzat Ibrahim, remained tight-lipped about the talks, aimed at ending a dispute which has dogged Iraq for de-

The rebel leader, dressed in khaki uniform, said he planned a news conference on Saturday to give details of progress so far. He was ready to stay in Baghdad until full agreement was reached.

Trust between the two sides. who less than two months were battling for control of mountainous north Iraq, had been greater than expected but more time was needed to solve all problems, Mr. Barzani said. He was guarded by Iraqi plainclothes securitymen, patroll-

(Continued on page 2)

Palestinian stabs three Israelis; Shamir sorry he was caught alive

(Agencies) - A Palestinian stab- said he was trying to stop the bed three Israelis in a dash along attacker when he got stabbed. a downtown Jerusalem street Friday before bystanders captured him, police said. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said he was sorry the Palestinian was caught alive.

It is very grave, this vile deed which has occurred on the main streets of Jerusalem again. To my regret, the perpetrator was captured alive and this pains me greatly," Mr. Shamir told Israel

"We have to fight against this and take all steps for these deeds to end," he added. "All those responsible for security have to

be ready and on alert." Police said the attacker was a 21-year-old resident of the Arab Jerusalem.

The motive is nationalist. He was shouting 'Allahu Akbar'," a police officer said.

Police said the victims were all Jewish and included a woman. They said all were slightly in-

inred. One of them, a bearded Jewish seminary student, was treated at nearby Bikur Holim Hospital for a cut in his hand and a stab wound to the shoulder. The stu-

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM dent, 31-year-old Moshe Cohen, Police spokesman Avi Zelba said a crowd gathered and beat the attacker. The crowd also attacked two plainclothes detec-

> breaking the hand of one detec-A religious Jew who tried to shoot the Palestinian but hit him on the head with his pistol after it

tives who tried to intervene.

jammed was himself arrested. witnesses said. The attack was the latest in a cycle of Arab-Jewish violence that began after police shot dead at least 20 Palestinians during

clashes on Arab Jerusalem, in October last year. On April 30, an Arab stabbed to death a French woman tourist in the West Bank town of Beth-

"We have to fight this and use all means so these acts will be stopped. It is not a problem which has a solution. It is a matter of awareness and caution," Mr. Shamir said.

The attacks began in a supermarket crowded with shoppers. The female victim, 27, was stabbed near a bus stop.

"I saw him stab the girl in the back as she stood at the bus stop. He shouted 'Allahu Akbar' as usual and he continued running wildly," one witness told army radio.

The Palestinian, pursued by passers-by and two cars, ran into a side street where he was captured and beaten. A large pool of blood was seen at the site.

"I kicked him with my leg. His knife fell away and I hit him in the head with this metal handle. I hit him about 10 times. People almost killed me, they were shouting: 'Kill him kill him',' said Naftali Papero, a thin, bearded Israeli.

"We tore him apart," added Edmond Suissa, 25. Suissa said the assailant carried "a twobladed knife with a handle in the

Witnesses said a Jewish settler from Mazle Adumin near Jerusalem tried to shoot the Arab twice with a pistol. After the weapon jammed, the settler hit the Palestinian with the pistol

Police rushed reinforcements to the area, dozens of Israelis clustered in small groups, shouting "hang the Arabs."

King, Assad meet today on peace efforts

AMMAN (R) - His Majesty King Hussein is expected to fly to Damascus Saturday to discuss efforts to convene an Arab-Israeli peace conference with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. Jordanian political

"As main parties in the peace process, the two countries have to exchange views to know where each is standing

sources said Friday.

vis-a-vis current Deace efforts," one of the sources told Reuters.

"The two also need each other's support in any future move in the peace process." The King's trip to Syria fol-

lows U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's fourth tour of the region and after U.S. President George Bush called King Hussein on Wednesday to tell him that Washington was committed to an Arab-Israeli settlement based on U.N. principles demanding an exchange of land

Mr. Bush expressed "Washington's keenness and determination to help the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict to reach a peaceful political settlement on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. Political settlement on the

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basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. King Hussein voiced Jor-

dan's commitment to the cause of peace and to solving the Arab-Israeli and the Palestivian problems peacefully and justly on the principles of international legitimacy, it said.

Syria, Lebanon enter treaty

BEIRUT (AP) - President Elias Hrawi returned home from Syria Friday after winning the support of President Hafez Al Assad for a treaty regulating "distinctive relations" between this war-ravaged country and its powerful neigh-

But Israel strongly rejected the "treaty of brotherhood, cooperation and coordination," accusing Syria of "swallowing cup" Leba-

After a lengthy session that stretched into the early morning hours, on official announcement in Damascus said Mr. Assad welcomed the new and appropriate framework for the relations between the two

A presidential statement in Beirut said that on his return. Mr. Hrawi contacted Prime Minister Omar Karami and conveyed to him that he and Mr. Assad "were in total agreement on the details of the treaty."

Mr. Hrawi travelled to Damascus Thursday after his cabinet approved the draft treaty.

The document has to be submitted to the Syrian and Lebanese parliaments for ratification before it becomes binding. The dates of the parliament sessions in Beirut and Damascus have not been set. But neither house is expected to challenge the

presidents' decision. Once ratified, it will be the first treaty to regulate relations between the two country's since Lebanon's independence from France in 1943.

Syria maintains 40,000 troops in Lebanon under a 1976 Arab League peacekeeping mandate. It is backing Mr. Hrawi's drive to end 16 years of civil war and restore government authority to the country. Israel, which occupies a border

strip in South Lebanon, rejected the accord between Lebanon and Israeli Defence Minister

Moshe Arens said Friday Syria was "turning Lebanon into another protectorate." "When the world's attention was focused on the Gulf crisis,

and when Syria joined the coalition against (Iraq), behind the scenes Syria was busy swallowing up Lebanon," Mr Arens said. "This is against all acceptable norms," he added on Israel Radio.

Israel carved out the so-called "security zone" in South Lebanon in 1985 after withdrawing the bulk of the army that had invaded its northern neighbour three years earlier It claims the strip serves as a

buffer against guerrilla raids into northern Israel. Israeli troops and their surrogate militia, the South Lebanon

Army, staged manoeuvres in the

border strip. Security sources in South Lebanon, speaking on condition of anonymity, said about 500 Israeli soldiers and 35 tanks took part in the exercise which began Thursday on the foothills of Mount Hermon, close to the Syrian bor-

Mr. Karami, the Lebanese prime minister, instructed Lebanon's U.N. Ambassador Farid Mekkawi to relay to the Security Council the government's "worries stemming from Israeli activities in South Lebanon."

Mr. Karami, in a statement (Continued on page 2)

Farmers welcome P.M.'s steps, but say situation calls for more

By Mariam M. Shahin Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Jordan Valley farmers yesterday welcomed Prime Minister Mudar Badran's statements in which he announced plans to combat pollution of irrigation water, but said that the proposed measures may fall short of what is required to dispel fears about a repetition of this years damage to

"The government will soon start drilling artesian wells along the Zarqa River that flows towards King Talal Dam in order to dilute the polluted water in the dam and feed it fresh underground water, thus making it suitable for irrigation of crops." The prime minister was quoted as saying Thursday.

At a meeting with representatives of the farming community from the Central Jordan Valley region the prime minister said:
"The government has already embarked on plans and studies designed to reduce the negative effects of the polluted water on the crops, and is monitoring the

In his discussions with farmers Mr. Badran reviewed plans that concerned ministries are expected to adopt in order to ensure that the severe crop damage that resulted from polluted irrigation water this year does not occur again. Farmers interviewed by the Jor-

dan Times Friday expressed satisfaction that the prime minister has publicly recognised the severity of the situation in the Jordan Valley and had begun action to resolve the issues. "In view of the fact that high ranking officials in Mr. Badran's government had earlier de-nied the existence of the water pollution problem, we consider the prime minister's admission as progress," one of the farmers said.

Many of them agreed, however. that the new measures proposed by the government may not be suffi-

Waste-water treatment

While the prime minister said that existing waste-water treatment plants will have to work more efficiently, farmers question whether the Khirbet Al Samra sewage water treatment plant can be made to function more effectively and efficiently than it is working at the moment. Those farmers who spoke to the Jordan Times echoed certain expert opinions by suggesting that the wastewater treatment plant at 'Ain Ghazal may have to be reopened, or that some other measures have to be taken, in order to ensure adequate irrigation water is supplied to the valley. The farmers also said that the drilling of artesian wells may be

very costly and that the water derived from them may turn out to be salty and therefore useless for the purpose of feeding into the ited King Talal Dam. At least one farmer, who asked not to be identified, also criticised

a promise by the prime minister age to the crops will be investigated and to compensate the concerned parties based on the findings. "This will take too long, and by the time they research the whole issue the Jordan Valley may be in ruins," contended the far "Local experts, including those

at the University of Jordan, are familiar with the issue and well equiped to deal with the problem. But unfortunately they have not been consulted or histened to sufficiently on the real causes of the disaster. The pollution of the dam may have been due partly to the factories dumping waste in the Zarqa River (which feeds King Talal Dam) but the real problem is the inadequacy of the Khirbet Al Samra treatment plant," another

farmer said. Mr. Badran had earlier formed a committee chaired by Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Secretary General Abdul Aziz Wishah to investigate the causes of the damage of the crops following conflicting views about the real cause of the disaster. Mr. Wishab announced Wednesday that the committee had not completed its studies and investigations, but would report its findings to the prime minister as soon as possible.

The farmers also said that despite the prime minister's positive attitude towards their plight they had received no guarantees that next year their crops would be spared the fate of this year's.

Discussions between Mr. Badran, the farmers and Sultan Adway, chairman of the Lower

House of Parliament's Agricultural Committee, centred on issues ranging from fighting insects to the soaring prices of farming equip-ment, compensation to farmers for their losses, marketing Jordan's agricultural produce and the rescheduling of farmers' loans.

The prime minister's visit and meeting with the farmers followed a protest march organised by far-mers in the central Jordan Valley last week in which the farmers condemned both government ministers and parliamentarians for ignoring their plight. The concerned ministers and parliamenta-rians had failed to attend a scheduled meeting to discuss farming

problems in the Kingdom. The farmers, who contend they custained ID 60 million in damages to their crops, threatened to sue the government and to take other measures so that they would not be exposed to similar losses in the

Spraying plan

Mr. Badran told the meeting drawn up for the collective spraying of crops in the valley by licopter with the purpose of eliminating pests, especially the white fly."

He said that the Ministry of Agriculture was now involved in preparing a comprehensive study of the farmers' debts and, in the light of a report to the government, steps would to taken to deal with the question of rescheduling far-

"The government is now enlisting the bein of international experts to determine the real causes of the damages inflicted on the farmlands," the prime minister pointed out. He said once the real cause behind the crop damage had been determined, steps would be taken with regard to compensation to the farmers. Compensation, he

said, should be shouldered by those responsible for the losses. Mr. Badran told the farmers that the Gulf crisis had halted Jordan's agricultural marketing program-mes, especially in the Gulf region, but all efforts were exerted towards marketing the products which form the backbone of the national economy.

Mubarak: Gulf security proposal is not dead

Saudi Arabia does not mean that an eight-country Arab plan for Gulf security has collapsed. He said Egypt will send troops

to the Gulf again if a detailed agreement to be negotiated calls for them. Mr. Mubarak's remarks in an Italian television interview appeared intended to dispel interpretations that the Egyptian

troop withdrawal marked the end

of the so-called Damascus dec-

laration. The Damascus declaration, issued on March 6 in the Syrian capital, linked Egypt and Syria with the six members of the Gulf

Cooperation Council (GCC) It constituted a set of general principles providing for a joint security force, with Egyptian and Syrian troops in the Gulf region acting as a nucleus. In return, the oil-rich states would give the two military donors massive financial

Italian television interviewed Mr. Mubarak Wednesday, the eve of his visit to Rome to start a

European-Arab tour. "Many people interpreted the decision to withdraw Egyptian forces from Kuwait as a reversal of the Damascus agreement," Mr. Mubarak said. "This is not

CAIRO (AP) - President Hosni true. The forces had been given Mubarak says withdrawing the task of participating in the Egypt's troops from Kuwait and liberation of Kuwait, and they accomplished their mission suc-

> Mr. Mubarak announced on May 8 that he was calling home 36,000 soldiers posted within a 33-nation U.S.-led military coalition that rid Kuwait of Iraqi occupation. Until then, the government had said repeatedly that the Gulf war troops would be at the heart of the security force. It rotated some of them on that basis until Mr. Mubarak ordered

the pullout. A week after Mr. Mubarak's announcement, presidential confidant Ibrahim Nafie, a newspaper editor, wrote in Al Ahram that the pullout was for two reasons:

First, most of the force in Kuwait was left without a specific assignment after the Gulf war ended on Feb. 28, implying that the force no longer was welcome in Kuwait.

The other reason was that some GCC members had second thoughts about the Damascus agreement, Mr. Nafie said, wanting instead a larger security force including non-Arab troops. Egypt won't act as an Arab cover in peacetime for non-Arab military muscle that could lead to "an explosion," he said.

Kuwait says allies will be

out in 1 month KUWAIT (R) - Kuwait's defence minister said in an interview published Friday U.S.-led coalition forces would complete their pull out from the emirate within one month.

Salem Al Sabah said a joint force of the Gulf's six Arab states and Egypt and Syria would soon deploy in Kuwait. Sheikh Ali told the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Anba, published in

But Sheikh Ali Salem Sabah Al

Egypt, that "some 90 per cent of the American forces have withdrawn and the remaining numbers are pulling out." "After approximately one month these forces will complete

their withdrawal as well as all of the coalition forces from Kuwait." The minister said a force grouping troops from the sixnation Gulf Cooperation Council

(GCC), Egypt and Syria as well as some "friendly" countries would deploy in Kuwait Sheikh Ali said a comprehensive agreement would then be reached regarding the security

these arrangements. Western countries have said they would not keep ground troops in Kuwait but would main-

arrangements in the Gulf region.

He said Iran would play a role in

tain sea and air forces in the Gulf

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S. Arabia beefs up security for Haj

are beefing up security for next month's annual pilgrimage to Islam's holiest shrines, fearing possible trouble from supporters of Iraq.

Officials declined to say how many troops and police will be mobilised for the month-long pilgrimage, the Haj, to the shrines at Mecca and Medina. But a Western diplomat,

speaking on condition of anonymity, noted: "I think this will be the largest number of security forces brought out for the Haj in

The Saudis have a 45,000-man army and a 56,000-strong National Guard, including 26,000 tribal levies, which is controlled by the Interior Ministry.

As early as last month, a large number of regular police wer transferred from Riyadh to Mecca, birthplace of the Prophet Mohammad. Bearded bedouin police from rural areas took their

The interior minister, Prince Nayif, warned last month that if there is trouble. "we will not show leniency in any case and we will not allow any individual to tamper-with the security of the homeland.'

The Haj has been plagued by violence and political problems for years and the Saudis have a lot riding on ensuring this pilgrimage will be trouble-free.

King Fahd, much of whose legitmacy in Islamic eyes rests on his title of guardian of the holy places, came under criticism in some parts of the Muslim World for inviting more than a halfmillion Western "infidel" troops into Saudi Arabia to protect it

Baghdad said Americans troops were defiling Mecca and Medina, the Prophet's burial place. But the Saudis largely countered that through a vigorous campaign of their own. Nearly all the 700,000 Western

Arab and Islamic troops who deployed in the U.S. coalition to liberate Kuwait, have gone

President Suharto of Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation with an estimated 180 million people, has said he will personally make the Haj this

That was a signal of confidence in the Saudis and their security arrangements and a gesture to-

wards Muslim unity.
The Haj, which all Muslims are expected to make at least once in their lives, is one of the world's largest religious rites.

An average of 1.6 million prilgrims from 60 countries converge on Mecca and Medina every year. Last year there were two million. Iraqi Information Minister Hammid Yusef Hammadi said May 12 that Iraqi pilgrims will take part in this year's Haj. But he gave no details and it's not clear how many Iraqis will

come to Saudi Arabia this year. The Saudis have never banned any Muslims from the pilgrimage, although after trouble with Iranian pilgrims in 1987, they imposed a quota system limiting national groups to 1,000 for every one million head of population.

Every year, the Saudis spend billions of dollars on facilities to accomodate, feed, transport and care for the flood of pilgrims. This year they have spent addi-

tional funds on improving safety arrangements following a disaster last year in which 1,426 pilgrims died in a stampede in a Mecca

Most were Indonesians, Turks and Malaysians. President Suharto's action in making the Haj himself was seen as endorsing the Saudi regime and its efforts to

Violence and natural disaster have marred the Haj since 1979 when Sunni fundamentalists stormed the Grand Mosque. Scores of people were killed in a

Five years ago, Iranian Revolu-tionary Guards were arrested trying to smuggle explosives into Mecca. In 1987, More than 400 pilgrims, mostly Iranians, were killed in clashes with saudi police when a banned political demonstration turned into a riot.

ploded in Mecca during the pilgrimage, killing one man and wounded others. Sixteen Kuwaiti Shiite Muslims, fingered as Iranian agents, were beheaded.

Despite the political feuds between Rivadh and other Arab groups, this year has seen a rap-prochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

They restored relations last month, three years after Riyadh severed links, citing terrorism and subversion.

Since then, the Iranians have boycotted the pilgrimage, complaining that the quota system cut the number of Iranian pilgrims from 150,000 to 45,000.

The Saudis have allowed Iran to send 110,000 pilgrims this year — a reward, some say, for Iran's neutrality in the Gulf war. But the return of the Iranians is

one reason why the Saudis will be more alert this year. While Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani is working to

improve relations with his country's neighbours, he is opposed by radical fundamentalists who espouse overthrowing the Saudi royal family. These radicals were considered

behind much of the trouble in the past and the main Iranian opposition group, the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, or people's holy warriors, claims sabotage operations are

'Super bomb' Foreign Office told Briton given used against

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senior Iraqi military officers were the target of a powerful new bomb dropped by the U.S. air force on Iraqi command bunkers in the final days of the Gulf war, an air force general has confirmed. The existence of the non-

Iraqis

nuclear bomb and its use against Iraqi bunkers near Baghdad was disclosed earlier this month by the magazine Aviation Week and Space Technology, which said the air force denied it was targeting Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. General Ronald Yates, com-

mander of air force systems command, told reporters inquiring about the use of the GBU-28 bomb that it was dropped on a single target, which he described as a command and control complex containing "senior staff" of the Iraqi military. He did not describe the extent of damage. Gen. Yates, whose command

was in charge of building the bomb, did not say whether the air force knew exactly which Iraqi military officials were in the

Last September during the U.S. military buildup in the Gulf, air force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael Dugan was fired by Defence Secretary Dick Cheney for telling reporters that the air force would target the Iraqi leadership, including President Saddam, in an air war.

Gen. Yates, speaking at a breakfast meeting with defence reporters declined to elaborate further on the use of the GBU-28 bomb. He said "a classified number" of the bombs were built in the final days of the war, but he would not be more specific. The general would not say whether more of the bombs will be built.

To demonstrate how furiously the air force worked to get the bomb built, Gen. Yates said that when they were loaded for the trip to the Gulf in late February they were still warm from the molten explosive placed inside during assembly.

Aviation Week reported that the 2.130-kilogramme bombs were built in 17 days to meet a request from U.S. commanders for a weapon capable of penetrating Iraq's most heavily reinforced bunkers. The magazine said an undetermined number of Iraqi military officials were killed in

Gen. Yates said the bomb was tested only once before an undisclosed number were flown to the Gulf and used just days before the Feb. 29 ceasefire.

Late singer's daughter dies

CAIRO (AP) - Aicha Abdul Wahab, deeply distressed over the death of her father, Egypt's top composer-singer, died of a heart attack after watching one of his movies on television, family members said Friday. She was 46. Doctors said Miss. Abdul

Wahab died of a heart attack, just as her 90-year-old father Moham-mad Abdul Wahab did two weeks She was the eldest of Abdul

Wahab's five children by his first wife, who died a few years ago. He named Aicha after his mother, and family members said she was his favourite.

They said Miss Abdul Wahab suffered deep depression after her father's death. On the eve of her fatal attack on Tuesday, they said, she wept as she watched on television one of the seven movies in which Abdul Wahab starred.

Abdul Wahab, universally acknowledged as the Arab World's most popular composer-singer this century, died on May 3 and was given a military funeral.

life spying sentence for in Iraq working in Iraq, was arrested while trying to fice through the LONDON (R) — The British government said on Friday it would exect maximum ore on Baghdad to secure the early release of a British engineer sentenced by an Iraqi court to life izure of Kuwait.

imprisonment for spying.

Foreign Office Minister Doug-

las Hogg said the detention of the Briton, Douglas Brand, was in breach of United Nations resolutions and tht Britain would fight to keep economic sanctions in force against Iraq as long as he British officials said diplomatic

sources in Baghdad had told London of Mr. Brand's trial and sentence but the Foreign Office was seeking urgent confirmation from the Iraqi authorities.

"We deplore this act. We think it's absolutely shocking," said Mr. Hogg. "We will put all the pressure

that we can on Iraq to get the early release of Douglas Brand," he told British Broadcasting Corporation television.

Britain's U.N. Ambassador Sir David Hannay said Thursday Mr. Brand was one of the hostages Iraq used as human shields to deter allied attacks before the Gulf war and that U.N. Secretary Council resolutions demanded he

Mr. Brand, 51, an engineer

south of the country last September, when Baghdad beld Japanese hostage following its

A Foreign Office spokesman said the life sentence in Mr. Brand's case appeared to mean 20 years, although spying can carry the death penalty in Iraq. The death penalty was carried

out in March 1990 on Mr. Farzad Bazoft, an Iranian-born journalist working for a British newspaper. He was hanged after being convicted of spying for Israel.

Mr. Hogg said British pressure
on Baghdad could also include a

refusal to support moves to ease U.N. sanctions against Iraq or to consider lifting a freeze on Iraqi "There are various things that

we can do with regard to Iraci assets here in London and also in regard to sanctions," he told BBC radio. "We shall be taking all possible steps. Mr. Hogg called Mr. Brand's

detention a "a gross breach of various Security Council resolutions which require the release of all third country nationals held in

Earlier on Friday, Mr. Hogg met Mr. Brand's son Andrew at

the Foreign Office. After the meeting, Andrew Brand strongly denied his father was a spy. "He was just an honest businessman earning a living on a

purely commercial contract, not involved with the military in Iraq," he said in a television Mr. Andrew Brand said ha father, a former royal marine and member of Britain's citte military. Special Boat Squadron, was working for Iraq's Ministry of

Irrigation and Dams, clearing the Shatt Al Arab waterway of debris from the Iran-Iraq war. The Foreign Office contacted Iraq's sole diplomat in London Charge d'Affairs Zuhair Ibrahim on Thursday night after Soviet diplomats in Baghdad said Mr.

Brand had been put on trial, The Soviet diplomats said Mr. Brand was taken to court on Sunday from Abu Ghraib prison west of the Iraqi capital, for what was apparently the first session of

his trial for espionage.

Iraq broke diplomatic relations with Britain during the Gulf war and the Soviet Union has been representing British interests in Baghdad.

On Friday morning, Mr. Hogg called in Jordan's ambassador. Albert Butros, to ask him to seek details from Iraq.

Kuwait oil strategists wait for smoke to clear

KUWAIT (R) - Kuwait's policymakers, peering at the in-ferno in their oilfields, concede that setting targets and mapping out production strategies must

"It is like asking a man watching his house burning what colour he wants to paint his walls," said Nader Sultan, president of Kuwait Petroleum International.

The emirate hopes to start pumping oil next month for the first time since the U.S.-led allies ended Iraq's occupation in February. In the meantime, its preinvasion production capacity of more than two million barrels per day is a memory.

"From one of the gathering centres (where the oil is separated from gas before being piped to the tank farms) we're hoping to guarantee 50,000 barrels (per day)," Mr. Sultan said in an interview with Reuters.

Refined products, which accounted for nearly 700,000 bpd of pre-invasion exports, will have to wait far longer to reappear. The complex refineries were reduced to a shambles in the Gulf

There are 26 gathering stations throughout Kuwait. All of them are believed to be damaged, some destroyed, but cannibalising parts could provide a shortterm solution, U.S. oil industry sources said.

Some of the stations have still to be checked by experts. "We've been to the outer re-

gions, but the American army has told us not to go even two inches off the tarmac," Mr. Sultan said.

The fear is mines. Driving southwest to Wafra on the Saudi border, row upon row of Iraqi mines are clearly visible, exposed by a northerly wind. A southerly wind will smother them with sand

One Kuwaiti oil executive said production would rise to 120,000 bpd in July, but "beyond that we cannot say, maybe another couple of hundred thousand."

"No dates are being set.. no targets," Mr. Sultan said: 'Ask anyone and technically they don't know when the fires be extinguished," he said. But he added that according to comments made by firefighters, next year might see the cap put on the last flaming well.

Replacing destroyed equipment will also take time.

The two main pipeline junctions, blasted apart by U.S. planes to stop oil spilling into the Gulf, will take more than a year to replace, one Kuwaiti oil execu-

tive said.
"Everything went through them," he added. Using by pass pipes over the

broken junctions will take crude oil to waiting tankers. But loading will be rudimentary and the volume significantly reduced until a replacement for the Sea Island terminal, also destroyed by U.S. planes, is ready.

Building a new terminal from scratch could take up to two

The flows from the wells more than 500 in the Greater Buroan field - were regulated to maintain a careful pressure balance between the subterranean layers of oil, gas and water.

Oil gushing at a rate of five million bpd drains the natural pressure of the reservoirs and threatens the lifespan of recoverable reserves estimated at 97 billion barrels.

Tell-tale white smoke billowing from a blown well means water has pushed to the top. One oil firefighter in the Ahmadi field, just south of Kuwait City, said be spotted only one well out of 100 in the area showing symptoms. "No real work has been done

to assess the damage to the reservoirs." Mr. Sultan said.

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Amman — Jordan

Soviet ties should enhance Saudi role

RIYADH (R) — Riyadh's improving ties with Moscow, after 50 years of mutual mistrust, should enhance Saudi Arabia's role in the politics of the post-Gulf war world, diplomats in the kingdom say.

The United States and the West European powers are welcoming the new Saudi-Soviet friendship as a force for regional stability, they say.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia said last week that Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh's visit to Riyadh, the first by a leading Soviet politician since formal ties resumed last year, was a new departure in relations between the two countries.

Riyadh would prefer to see fewer Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel but the Saudis and Soviets generally agree on the means to peace between Arabs and Israelis, the diplomats say.

Mr. Bessmertnykh swung through the kingdom on his quest for a regional peace settlement, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, but Saudi officials said after he left Riyadh Tuesday the Soviet minister's visit was as much to strengthen their new friendship.

"Saudi-Soviet talks concentrated on bilateral relations, which are based on a solid foundation, and these relations will expand," the Saudi Press Agency on Wednesday quoted Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal as

"The Saudis are often a voice for moderation, and of particular importance through their economic power, but they have not often played an active role," said a European diplomat. "Prince Saud realises that in

order to have a more active diplomacy, Saudi Arabia needed to complete the circle with both superpowers, even if one is not quite the power it was," he said. Saudi Arabia, the biggest and

richest states on the Arabian Peninsula, was one of the last Gulf Arab countries to take up diplomatic ties with Moscow. Since the 1980s, as a champion of Islam, Saudi rulers harboured

a deep resentment of Moscow's

of millions of Soviet Muslims.

At first Moscow saw the kingdom as a playground for British imperial ambitions along its southern borders, connected to the old Anglo-Russian rivalry over the roads to British India.

After World War II, it increasingly saw it as a bastion of U.S. influence and the centre of Western control over the Gulf's huge oil reserves.

But the thaw in East-West ties over the past five years and President Mikhail Gorbachev's internal reforms persuaded the Saudis it was time to mend fences, the diplomats said.

Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia's ally and neighbour, last August also showed Riyadh it needed to adopt a more assertive regional and world diplomatic stance for the sake of its own security.
During Mr. Besmertnykh's

visit, Prince Saud Thanked him

for Soviet support for U.N. re-

solutions against Iraq, which gave the U.S.-led military alliance the authority to fight Iraq. But the real breakthrough in Saudi-Soviet relations was Moscow's withdrawal from Afghanis-

tan in 1988. Saudi Arabia backed the Afghan guerrillas against the Soviet forces which supported the commuist government in Kabul.

'Afghanistan put Saudi-Soviet ties on ice for 10 years. If not for Afghanistan, some Saudi leaders may have liked to see better relations earlier," said one diplo-

Both sides have concrete things to offer. Saudi Arabia has the investment resources which the crippled Soviet economy needs. In Moscow last november, Prince Saud began discussions on a \$4 billion credit for Moscow.

Moscow has also pleased Riyadh by recent concessions to religious freedom for Muslims. It has allowed in Saudi preachers and last year imported one million Saudi-printed copies of the

Visible Saudi patronage of Soviet Muslims is politically important because it helps Riyadh balance the influence of neighbouring Iran, which has fought a bitter campaign against Saudi imposition of communism on tens Arabia for the title of protector of

Barzani reports accord

(Continued from page 1)

ing his hotel with Kalashnikov automatic rifles hidden behind

newspapers. Issues resolved included an end to strife in the north, the KDP leader said.

Mr. Barzani said another key issue, control of the northern city of Kirkuk and its vast oil resources, was now "not a prob-Another Kurdish leader, Jalal

Talabani, told Renters on Tuesday the Kurds would accept Baghdad's control of the oil in return for Kurdish administration of Kirkuk and its province. Mr. Talabani said instead of a slice of the oil revenues, the

budget equal to their population - about 20 per cent to Iraq's 18 million people. Mr. Barzani said he was confident Iraq was ready to sign an agreement with the United Nations to provide some kind of

U.N. security presence in the

Kurdish region.

Kurds wanted a share of the state

Mr. Barzani has been heading a delegation of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front rebel alliance at negotiations with the Iraqi government since May 7. The talks, intended to forge

deal on the future of Kurdistan, democracy and human rights, follow agreement in principle between the two sides to revive a 1970 autonomy accord. "We have agreed on norma

lisation," Mr. Barzani said. "This is good. We agree with the government about the main points, these are very, very important He called on Kurdish refugees in Turkey and Iran to return to

their homes for the time being. "It is better for the Kurds to come back at least inside Iraq," U.S. and other Western troops

Iraq, though not necessarily to

have created a "safe haven" security zone for Kurds in northern Iraq. Iraq has condemned the allied

troop presence.

Bush sees 'real cause' for hope

(Continued from page 1) "important signs that Israel a "I don't think it's impossible to advance the peace process without Syria," he said. "There are other countries bordering Israel, Jordan of course... we are prepared and interested in making peace with all of them together... and even with just

The English-language Jerusalem Post daily, meanwhile, quoted a political source as describing a series of secret agreements reached in Mr. Baker's talks with the Israeli leaders Mr. Shamir disclosed Thursday

that Israel and the United States

agree on a number of issues that cannot be published yet" to help Mr. Baker's peace drive.

According to the Post, the agreements included one saying the European Community would have a "dearly defined and limited" role in

Although Mr. Shamir refused any U.N. role at the conference, final documents would be submitted to U.N. beadquarters in New York, the reported Thursday that the United Nations will put a "final stamp of approval" on any Arab-Israeli agree-

Israel also agreed to use only the term "conference," an apparent compromise between the Arabs' call for an "international" meeting and Israel's proposed "regional" confer-In another development, the Arab-

language daily Al Nahar reported

ies have agreed to what Baker said is a three-year self-rule before negotiating the final status of the occupied territories." Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Friday he believed a Middle East

Palestinians in the occupied territor-

peace conference could be agreed before the end of this year. Mr. Mubarak is on a European

"I don't think Baker's mission is a failure. The problem of the Middle East is so complicated that it will not be solved in one or two trips," Mr. Mubarak told a news conference after talks with Luxembourg leaders. "But I think there are good steps forward now and I think I hope that

we can conclude something before the end of this year." He said concessions would have to be made but avoided singling out

"I hope all the parties would respond to the words of peace... without concessions peace will never pre-

Mr. Mubarak said he was willing to have bilateral talks with the Israeli leader if they would be productive. "A meeting between me and Mr. Shamir at such a sensitive time should be worked out beforehand," he told reporters at Luxembourg's Senningen

"If there is good preparation some thing will come out of the meeting. If nothing comes out, this will be a setback that will create a lot of

Lebanon (Continued from page 1)

broadcast by the state-run Radio Lebanon, said the war games in the security zone "appear to be a threat against the treaty (with

The Lebanese media published Friday the text of the six-point The first two clauses deal with cooperation and coordination in various fields, especially eco-

nomy, education, trade and foreign policy. The next three points deal with security arrangements, including plan for redeployment of the Syrian troops. The final clanse calls for the establishment of a body headed by the presidents of the two countries to oversee im-

plementation of the accord. The treaty was the latest step in a government drive to accelerate a peace process under a 1989 Afab League-brokered accord to

end the civil war. Lebanon has already disarmed rival militias in and around Beirut and deployed government troops to control a 2,500-squarekilometre strip, or one fourth of

the country. The peace plan calls for deployment throughout the rest of country as of July 1.

That would put the 40,000strong Lebanese army in direct confrontation with the Israelis, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) guerrillas, Iranian Revolutionary Guards and their Lebanese militia backers.

The PLO and the Iranians have said they would disarm only after Israel quits the "security zone."

Attacks in south

In Nabativeh, Lebanon, Shiite Muslim fundamentalists said they detonated two roadside bombs in the Israeli-occupied zone Friday. Security sources said four people were killed and four others wounded.

the prestigious Al Nahar daily, was killed by the second bomb near the southern village of Beit Yahoun in Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone," according to one security source. Al Nahar's managing editor,

Nasrat Khreish, a reporter for

Francois Aql, confirmed the death of Mr. Khreish, who had worked for the paper more than 15 years. He said that according to in-

formation available to Al Nahar,

Mr. Khreish, 57, was taking pic-tures at the sight of the first blast

when the second bomb went off.

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DEPARTURES

Masri praises positive Arab climate in Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) - Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri said Thursday the meeting of the Arab League's Council in Cairo yielded positive results and took place in a friendly atmosphere. which ran against all expectations in the light of the current Arab situation and rifts in Arab ranks.

In a telephone interview with Radio Jordan from Cairo, Mr. Masri said he felt in speeches delivered by heads of the Arab delegations in the meeting that the Arab states are trying to create a new atmosphere in the Arab region.

"Everyone (in the meeting) talked about Arab agreement and Arab unity, as well as a review of former concepts, so that we set out with Arab action to new grounds," the foreign minister

But, Mr. Masri said, the Arabs should wait to see if this trend of change will be transformed into deeds that will have their effects on the Arab atmosphere and inter-Arab relations.

He said the discussion of several important issues was post-

League Council's next session in order to give time to the newly-elected secretary general of the Arab League, former Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, to make contacts and visit Arab states to try to solve inter-Arab differences.

"We should admit that the atmosphere revealed some languor in relations.. thus it was not possible to discuss some hot issues or basic political matters of interest to the Arab World," he

"We thought it was suitable to give the new secretary-general of the Arab League, Dr. Abdul Meguid, the opportunity to settle differences and to prepare the ground for a better atmosphere for the next (Arab League's Council) session.

The minister said during his stay in Cairo he held several meetings with Arab foreign ministers taking part in the meeting and met with Dr. Abdul Meguid to discuss the Arab League's next moves and the role of the general secretariat.

Iraqis trickle into Jordan after ban on travel lifted

By Rana Sabbagh Reuter

AMMAN — Lucky Iraqi holidaymakers, most enjoying their first taste of foreign travel in almost a decade, are trickling into Jordan to escape the deprivations of war at home.

'I cannot believe I made it," said Ghazwa Shawqi, 38, a secretary who arrived on one of the air-conditioned Jordanian buses which run a daily 1,000-kilometre desert shuttle between Amman and Baghdad.

"The (Gulf) crisis has made our life hellish," Shawqi said, scrambling for her luggage tucked under dozens of other suitcases. "I need to rest and feel I am still

President Saddam Hussein lifted a ban on foreign travel two days ago as part of effects to normalise life after Iraq's Gulf war defeat by the U.S.-led allies in February.

A travel ban during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war was lifted briefly last year then reimposed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on

August 2. Jamila Jalloul, 26, travelling outside Iraq for the first time, said many families she knew would try to leave after May 25, when school examinations are

"All my friends want to come to Jordan because it is the only place where they are allowed in with no complications and do not feel humiliated as Iraqis," she said. "Amman is also one of the few places where you can exchange Iraqi dinars."

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PAGE A

inel 3

155

Iraqis travelling abroad are allowed to take only 25 dinars (\$130 at official rates, but a mere \$4 at black market rates) out of the country, effectively limiting foreign travel to those with outside bank account.

Jordan's hotels, whose tourist trade took a direct hit during the Gulf crisis because most Jordanians sympathised with Baghdad, hope the Iraqis will revive their

"We expect a boom soon," said Ghaleb Sawalha, executive director at the five-star Regency Palace Hotel. But Jailoul's businessman hus-

band Jassim said: "At the rate things are going, I don't believe many people will be able to leave before two weeks." "Many people either have no

passports because they could never travel during the war with Iran or have expired travel documents which need renewal. Others are standing in queues to get exit visas," he added.

"I have a current account in a Jordanian bank but many others do not and are looking for ways to ensure they have enough money to cover their stay abroad. No one can live on the amount he allowed to take out."

The hopes of many less well-off tracis for an escape from political and economic turmoil were dashed by strict guidelines announced by the government last week.

Apart from currency restrictions, Iraqi men cannot leave if they are still eligible for conscription. Government workers need written permission.

Abstract art exhibition a symbol of daily life

By Maha Addasi Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Currently on display at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation are the works for two Jordanian artists, Ahmad Nawash and Yasser Dweik.

The exhibition, which opened on May 5, is entirely made up of abstract art but each artist uses a different medium.

Mr. Nawash's technique is mostly etching, with acids in different concentrations used to draw on different media. Mr. Nawash uses zinc, which is the usual material for etching. but also copper and stone, which differ in the texture and therefore give various background colours.

Mr. Nawash also has lithographs on display. All have figures depicting a theme related to daily life morals.
In one etching Mr. Nawash's

figures are combined giving the impression that all three figures in the frame have the same body. If one looks closely, though, one notices that if each head is covered at a time the rest of the etching shows either an animal or a humanlike figure.

According to the artist, this etching symbolises how humans and animals share the burdens in life.

In another lithograph the figure of an innocent child dominates the frame. The child, representing a Palestinian child, shows deep sorrow. To the left of the frame is an older man, with an eye patch, clearly depicting Moshe Dayan, is drawn so that he appears tiny in comparison to the child. The man's expression is that of extreme wickedness.

Yasser Dweik's works are abstract studies of squares. All the pictures are square shaped and many are in turn out into the smaller squares. This way the picture contained several mini-pictures which have the same general theme but can also be looked at as individual

Mr. Dweik presents a great deal of his art through geometric shapes and colours. In one of his works Mr. Dweik shows the outer squares in a somber colour framing four squares in vivid blue and bright white colours. The inner square are reminescent of a clour-filled

In another work, the four inner squares look like they could be photographs of cells as seen under a microscope.

In yet a third etching, the inner four squares show the same colours that are on the 12 outer squares but they look like photographs out of focus.

The highlight of Mr. Dweik's works is one showing hands reaching out in every direction. All the hands are stretched as far as they can reach as though ready to grab something that is rightfuly

The exhibition will continue until June 5.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thurs day confers with the Soviet delegation here for talks on cooperation, Middle East issues (Petra Photo)

Parents debate education minister's controversial decision, vow to fight it until rescinded

By Nur Sati Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Following last month's decision by minister of education to ban all fathers from attending their daughters' sports activities, angry parents have formed a committee to tackle the minister's measure.

One-hundred and fifty parents met recently, under the chairmanship of eight elected committee members, to voice anger over the minister who "is trying to take our freedom and rights." Preferring anonymity, parents argued that "the father and mother have a right to discuss the decision because we are the ones to determine the education policy that we want for our children."

The committee members consider the decision as a unilateral one because the minister did not consult other members of parliament."

All parents from private schools said they would work together to counter the latest decision. A petition will be prepared and signed by all private school parents. will sent this petition to the prime minister or the King," said one of the eight committee members who preferred to have the meeting and names of participants anonymous.

The meeting was characterised by heated debate and tough questions: "Is this (new measure) of any use to the education of our children?" The parents will be cam-

paigning strongly against the decision. "We believe, as an educational institution, that there are certain ways of teaching and developing children; it should be done in a healthy manner," one father asserted. The Education Minister, Dr.

Abdullah Akaileh, on April 30, imposed a measure which would ban fathers from watching girls in gym slips compete in school sports. Dr. Akaileh said that, "this would allow girls total freedom

to dispaly their skills without

embarrassment." When a young girl asks her father to come and watch her at school, and the father says no, the girl will grow up with a complex, no doubt, many pa-

Parents' reaction towards the minister's decision was unanimous. It is wrong, they

"We do not want to attack or change people's points of view, but we do not want this measure to be forced upon us either," said a mother.

Many parents saw this as a social problem, others thought it was purely an educational one. "There is so much to be done in the educational system. Students are studying from books that are ten years old. Why does the minister concentrate on issues such as banning fathers from watching their daughters when an overhaul of the educational system is more importance?" asked one of the more outspoken

The meeting decided to gather all parents from private schools to compaign against the law, which many believe will affect the educational system, and to try rescind the

In the meeting those parents attending said they would speak out and send petitions until the minister's decision is cancelled. "We will keep arguing against it because we feel it has nothing to do with education.

Arab-Soviet dialogue ends, stresses need for peace conference, reviews ties

AMMAN (J.T.) - A two-day Arab-Soviet dialogue, which focused on issues ranging from the Middle East question to Soviet-Arab economic cooperation, ended in Amman Thursday evening, and the five-member Soviet delegation left for home Friday.

Wounding up the visit, the Soviet delegation's leader Profes-sor Mikhail Kapitsa announced that his country was determined to pursue all efforts to maintain the traditional ties with the Arab

At a meeting with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, following the final session, Prof. Kapitsa called on world nations to show better understanding of the issues of the Middle East and to help the people of this region establish security and stability. Prince Hassan expressed hope

that close cooperation and a comprehensive dialogue between the Arabs and the Soviet Union would continue in an atmosphere of understanding and positive openness to serve the interests of the two sides.

Addressing the meeting, at Al Hussein Youth City and attended by all delegates participating in the dialogue, the Crown Prince emphasised the importance of upholding the international legi-timacy, which, he said, should be manifested through the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 to ensure a lasting settlement to the Middle East problem.

Prince Hassan said that the Middle East was now passing through a crucial stage that was bound to affect its future political, social and economic life.

He urged concerned parties to maintain dialogue among the countries involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, between the Palestinians and the Israelis and among nations of the Middle East region along the principles of the Helsinki Agreement which charted cooperation among European nations.

The Arab-Soviet dialogue, which was organised in Amman by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF), issued a statement noting

that the participants have reviewed working papers dealing with peace in the Middle East, disarming the region, ways to bolster Arab-Soviet economic cooperation and means of ensuring security for the region.

According to the statement the participants agreed that massing of military arsenals in the region constituted a source of danger not only for the Arabs but the whole region and world

The participants voiced total support for the idea of holding a peace conference to ensure a lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine problem, based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 said the statement.

Matters related to future economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and various Arab countries were all discussed indepth during the two-day dialogue.

The participatns decided to hold the fifth Arab-Soviet dia-

Labour federation criticises employers of non- Jordanians

tion of Jordanian Labour Unions (FJLU) Friday voiced strong criticism of the employers and owners of various businesses employing non-Jordanian workers and said that they were trying to find a way around the labour regulations with the purpose of keeping the non-Jordanian work-

The Federation's Secretary General Abdul Halim Khaddam told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that only a limited favourable response was displayed by the employers with regard to the recent Labour Ministry's measures to find work for Jordanians, and many of the employers were trying to find a way around the regulations without giving due consideration to the national in-

try to find work for thousands of workers seeking employment through stimulating the activities of the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC), which has prepared training programmes for the job-seekers.

The federation considers the Labour Ministry's recent measures as contributing towards resolving the problem of unemployment in Jordan, said Mr. Khaddam. He said that the federation had contributed towards this aim by urging workers to seek employment offices' assistance to register for training programmes and to assume available jobs.

offering workers JD 70 a month, and forcing them to work for 16 hours a day, the employmers were placing obstacles in the path of finding solutions to the unemployment problem. Mr. Khaddam said that the new labour law dealt with all those issues and other problems

Mr. Khaddam said that by

facing the labour class in Jordan. Mr. Khaddam last January met with Prime Minister Mudar Bad-Mr. Khaddam's accusations ran who told him that the governfollowed a spate of measures ment was putting the finishing which would be submitted to Parliament for debate.

Mr. Khaddam said that the new law provided protection to the Jordanian Workers, giving them immunity against arbitrary dismissal from private sector in- guarding national interests.

ers' just causes.

He said that the law covered workers not only in the factories and institutions, but also on the farms, and provided for the workers' rights to organise unions.

In addition, the new labour law limits the minimum wages for workers through specialised committees representing the government, the employers and the workers, Mr. Khaddam said.

He said that the new labour law was needed to cater to the new development in the labour market and for the sake of controlling the Jordanian labour market. "It is needed to give the workers new legislations catering to the new democratic life which offers more liberties to the Jordanian people, including the freedom of forming new trade unions." Mr. Khaddam added.

i-: Mr. Khaddam urged employer and businesses to respond favourably to the Labour Ministry's measures concerning employment and said that his federation was willing to cooperate with them with the purpose of safe-

47 killed on the roads in April

people were killed and 791 others injured in 2,061 road accidents which occurred in Jordan in April, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Public Security Department (PSD).

These accidents registered an increase of 237 over those of people dropped by 34, the builttin noted.

According to the bulletin, 239 vehicles were involved in the past March, 1991, and an increase in month's accidents. Amman regthe number of dead by 18, istered the highest number of although the number of injured accidents, 1,264, resulting in the death of 18 citizens and the injury of 315.



PRINCE MOHAMMAD VISITS MECHA-NISED DIVISION: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Thursday visited one of the formations of the 4th Royal Mechanised

Division where he was received by the division and unit commanders and senior Armed Forces officers. Prince Mohammad was briefed by the unit commander on the duties assigned to his unit.

Zarqa governor urges setting up fund for environment protection

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa Governor Mohammad Hussein Shobaki Friday called for undertaking studies on the feasibility of using water from Zarqa River for irrigation purposes, and proposed the establishment of a fund to protect the environment. The fund will be financed by the various companies and factories

in the governorate.

Mr. Shobaki stressed the need to address the issue of pollution. mainly bacterial, organic and from soluble pollutants, and called on companies and factories to set up special purification plants to treat liquid waste before dumping it.

Such treatment plants, he said. are badly needed to avoid the hazards that polluted waste poses to the life of people, animals and to the soil, and to enable the utilisation of treated water for industrial or agricultural pur-

He also requested owners of

factories and companies to con-

nect their factories to the main sewerage network, after preparing the necessary specification and undertaking lab tests for samples of water on a daily basis. The governor noted that the Public Safety Committee in Zar-

ga has drawn up various plans, in cooperation with the parties concerned, to safeguard the environment in the area adjacent to the Zarqa River,

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Real pictures from a good old town

TELEVISION regaled us a few days ago with pictures of Crown Prince Hassan's field trip to Zarqa and his mingling with labourers, officials and good old citizens going about their work and doing their shopping in the marketplace. Beyond the happy expression of meeting their Crown Prince in casual clothes and near their homes, however, Zarqa residents must have found the visit important on at least two counts: First, Zarqa is the second biggest city in the country yet it is one of the most impoverished and neglected among its sister towns. Second, for His Royal Highness to go there now, having visited there not so long ago, means that if the government has forgotten about their ordeal, not everybody who counts has. That Zarqa and Zarqans epitomise the malaise of the Kingdom is a foregone conclusion. The plight of the Zarqa residents is readily noticed upon even the most superficial visit, not to mention an in-depth tour as the one carried out by Prince Hassan on Monday.

Unemployment there is rampant, city planning is at its worst and social problems abound. It would not be an exaggeration to suggest that if there was discontent and despair in the Kingdom, Zarqa would be the foremost sufferer from such ills. To get acquainted with Zarqa's misfortunes at the level of the Crown Prince offers, therefore, some good opportunities to get the pulse of the country's neglected citizens at close range. The Maan eruption of 1989 need not occur again as a prelude to initiate remedial actions that may serve as preventive medicine for any simmering disorders in the country. Only by identifying the woes of the people and moving to address them immediately would the government be in a position to assess local and civic problems and undertake to rectify them. What is especially wise and important about Prince Hassan's field trip to Zarqa is the lesson that ought to be learned about governor and governed staying in touch with each other and consolidating communication between them. There is every bope that others especially government ministers and senior officials would follow in the footsteps of the Prince in this endeavour provided they do so with faithful intent to come to grips with the demands and rights of the public rather than aim for a public relations score.

Needless to say, such intimate contact with the people of the Kingdom is a symbol of democracy. In this vein, few parliamentarians have really bothered to mix with the citizens of their respective constituencies on any scale resembling real political life. Likewise, seldom does one see politicians hit the streets to rub shoulders with the masses in any impressive way. The Prince's Zarqa tour is therefore a signal to all concerned that such field trips deserve to be undertaken regularly and frequently.

The people of Zarqa as elsewhere in the country expect action-oriented measures to remedy their difficulties where they exist. But before that, it is always useful for government representatives to go and see things as they are on the ground, not just hear about them from the comfort of their offices in Amman.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic paper Friday discussed Israel's continued obstinacy with regard to the implementation of U.N. resolutions; and stressed that the responsibility should be squarely placed on the United States which had assumed the task of implementing the international legitimacy. The credibility of the United States and President Bush and his administration now lie hostage to the Zionist attitude and it is upto Washington now to find out whether it should remain captive to the world Zionism and risk losing all credibility or take active steps to free itself and free this region from the atmosphere of war and terrorism, said the paper. World Zionism is seeking to abort Washington's endeavours to reach peace in the region and it is diving to show the world that the United States is capable of launching wars like that in the Gulf but incapable of making peace any where in the world, noted the paper. Of course Israel saw in Washington's war on Iraq a chance to pursue its own war on the Arabs and to maintain its expansionist policies in Arab land, but by so doing it is placing the U.S. administration face to face with the moment of truth, the paper added. The daily urged Egypt to join forces with the United States to force Israel to comply with the international legitimacy and implement U.N. resolutions instead of blaming the United States for failing to exercise pressure on Israel Egypt, said the paper, is the only Arab country linked to the Jewish state through a peace treaty and Egypt's political weight should now be utilised so that a lasting peace can be achieved.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticises U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for condemning a U.N. General Assembly resolution, equating Zionism with racism. There is a big similarity between the Zionists who occupy Arab land, kill innocent people, detain thousands others, demolish homes and evict civilians from their homeland in the occupied Arab lands and their counterparts in South Africa, says Tareg Masarweh. Through his long service at the United Nations, de Cuellar should have come to realise these facts. De Cuellar considers the General Assembly resolution as impeding peace; but he does not consider Israel's continued occupation of parts of Syria, Palestine and Lebanon and the annexation of Jerusalem and the atrocities committed by the Zionists as obstructing all paths leading to peace, says the writer. If de Cuellar is sympathetic towards the Iraqi Kurds, why is he indifferent towards the Palestinian Arabs who are exposed to repression? asks Masarweh. The writer considers de Cuellar's statements as un-ethical and do not conform to the spirit of the U.N. charter and the universal declaration of human rights. He condemns the statements as coming from a man who has transformed himself as a tool in the

VIEW FROM AMMAN

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

What are the characteristics of new world order?

COMING in the wake of the Gulf war, the first signs of the new world order are ominous indeed; begotten by violence unequal in historical annals not only in its intensity but fierceness and swiftness as well. Was the lesson only for Iraq? What was the lesson designed to achieve? The calming of nerves of certain jittery mini-states with look-alike armies or does it have wider

If one of the characteristics of the new world order then is violence, the second is the monopoly of that violence by the one superpower and its partners. In his 1991 state of the union message President Bush proclaimed before the United States Congress "... we are Americans. We have a unique responsibility to do the hard work of freedom." Mr. Bush, however, did not elaborate on whose freedom he was talking about. In January the president stated: "When we win - and we will - we will have taught a dangerous dictator, and any tyrant tempted to follow in his foot steps, that the U.S. has a new credibility and that what we

say goes..."
What these two statements declare is that the United States already views itself as the guarantor of the security of the coming world order. Couching its intentions in language that claims mora ascedency does not hide the real underlying intentions. Had the United States track record been different in Latin America, the Carribean and indeed elsewhere, one would be tempted to

The problem for us in the Arab World has been compounded by the fact that the United States continues to deal with two measures. It's double standard vis-a-vis the Palestinian problem and its constant demuring before Israeli - Zionist pressure have been major causes for the continued condition of chaos and hopelessness in the Arab World. And while no one any longer concerns himself with the Arab mini-leaders, the U.S. patronises, or with the fact that it has effectively become in control of oil, some concern remains that the Arab-Israeli conflict continues to

Many Arabs, aware that due to internal as well as external reasons the Arab World cannot at the moment aspire to a loftier status, have no opinion regarding a unipolar world and might, should the U.S. achieve an equitable peace settlement of the Palestine problem, become its supporters. There is no enmity between Arab and American per se. In fact, no Arab and American soldiers faced each other in active combat except in Barbary wars and recently in the Gulf war. A unipolar-led world, with a single unified will, and should it truly deal with one

measure, might be preferable to the utter confusion, conflict and rivalry that has been the condition of international relations since

The fear in the Arab World, as indeed in the rest of the Third World, is that there will be more than one measure, and that the justice that will prevail will be that of the jungle, of the strong posing its will on the less fortunate.

What the world needs right now is not merely lofty declara-tions, but assurances regarding what is to come. Since the United States advanced the idea, it is the United States that must explain it. The fear ouside the United States is real. Writing in a Mexican daily, commentator R. U. Iniesta says, "... the justice of the 'new order' already has exhibited a pattern of action against anyone who does not submit to the U.S. president..." President Mitterrand of France says, "no one can claim that from now on one country decides for all." Prime Minister Mahatir Mohammad of Malaysia adds, "... people now live in fear of the U.S., believe me... if you are friendly with the U.S., that is fine. But if you annoy them, they can take action like they did in Panama. There is no more Russia you can turn to."

The saddest aspect of the matter between the Arabs and the Americans is that no one is truly annoying the latter any way. What is needed is not more rhetoric but genuine actions taken by the U.S. to reassure the world of its intentions: A new credibility. What is just as needed is for the U.S. to free itself from the tentacles of Zionist influence so it can truly become credible and work towards the achievement of the principles it preaches to the

Thus far, the new world order advanced by the U.S. remains terra incognita to the rest of the world: a shadowy land more jungle than anything else.

The world appears to be - whether we like it or not - on the doorsteps of something new. Not only the coming of the twenty-first century, but the chance to aspire to achieve a new world: a new world that is built truly on mutual respect, partnership and a share in humanity; and not a world that is haunted by the real or imaginery prejudices of the past including the shadowy influence of Zionism.

That is why it is not acceptable to hear someone like U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger say of the new world "... I cannot describe to you what the new world order ought to look like..." If you don't know, what them are you

Gulf war leaves world economic outlook muddier

tracted at an annual rate of 2.8

Some of the United States'

best-known corporations have re-

ported large first-quarter losses

and seem reluctant even to specu-

"This is a time of extraordinary

demands on our business." said

General Motors Corp. Chairman

Robert Stempel in assessing

GM's \$-1.1 billion first-quarter

ates the economy at all levels,

ranging from credit card bills to

state budget gaps to the federal

debt, which is hurtling towards

\$3.5 trillion, nearly quadruple the

capital spending, education and

research goes instead to pay in-

terest on loans or help bail out

the savigs and loans and banks

doubt the United States can bor-

row its way out of recession as it

has done in previous downturns.

Foreigners who sell goods and

services in the U.S. market will

suffer, weakening their econo-

mies and eventually eroding their

ability to buy what America pro-

When a country goes into

recession. that means spending

declines, not just on domestic

goods but imported goods," said

Keith Johnson, a senior econom-

ist at Morgan Guaranty Trust

Co., a large New York bank.

duced abroad, it affects economic

growth abroad."

April 17.

the future.

Since imported goods are pro-

Hopeful signals are flashing

from some corners, however. The

stock market, for example, which

has a respectable record of pre-

saging recessions and recoveries,

has been rallying. The Dow Jones

industrial average, the best-known barometer of Wall Street,

hit an all-time high of 3,004.46 on

Home sales show some evi-

dence of stirring from a pro-

longed coma. Inflation seems to

be receding, partly because the

end of the war erased the threat

of sharply higher energy prices.

Surveys of consumers who hiber-

nated during the war have sug-

gested they're more confident in

The Bush administration be-

lieves the economy is about to

turn around. The president him-

self, seeking a catalyst for

growth, has exhorted bankers to

lower the cost of borrowing in

this country, and the Federal

Reserve. the nation's central

bank, has cooperated by en-

Bush also has pushed free trade

gineering lower interest rates.

with Mexico, one of the few expanding Latin economies, as

part of a grand plan to stimulate

economic activity throughout

North America.

Against such odds, there's

Borrowed money still perme-

late on when improvements will

be seen.

per cent in the first quarter.

By Rick Gladstone The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Nearly three months after allied forces evicted Iraq's army from Kuwait, skepticism has tinged predictions of a postwar economic renaissance: led by a spiritually renewed United States.

A recession that the U.S. government now acknowledges began last summer shows little evidence of ending and is flashing some troublesome signals of worsening. If anything, some forecasters

say, the Gulf war and its aftermath have muddied the world's economic waters. "The invasion of Kuwait didn't level of a decade ago.

Money that could go for jobs,

start the recession, so the end of the war didn't end it," said Audrey Freedman, an economist at the Conference Board, a New York business-research group.

The economic news is not all bad. Leading indicators charted by the U.S. government have shown improvement, and consumer confidence indexes are up. But the promise of recovery still outweighs the evidence so far.

One private assessment produced by the Conference Board shows weakness spreading rapidly and deeply across the global economy. Its composite leading index of major industrialised nations, which projects future economic conditions, fell at an annual rate of four per cent in April, compared with a two per cent drop three months earlier and two per cent growth six

months ago. Economists say a number of problems have conspired to cause a powerful worldwide slowdown. which not only predated the war but in some respects has grown more intense.

Highly indebted Third World nations owe more money than ever, and with few exceptions are all in decline, partly because of the flogging they took from higher energy prices following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait,

Eastern Europe, barely a year ago a fertile field of opportunity for western investors, is reeling backward, starved for capital and wracked by unemployment and inflation.

The Soviet economy itself has largely collapsed, making frustrated westerners more wary about doing business there.

Powerhouse Germany is suffering indigestion over the unification of Communist east and capitalist west. Japan's mighty economy has slowed and its longstanding trade feud with the Un-

ited States has grown testier. In the Gulf region itself, the enormous cost of rebuilding from the war will suck billions of investment dollars away from other

As for the United States, new iobless claims and layoffs are rising, while factory orders and auto sales fall. Government fi-

quiet diplomacy

Reuter

Maguid, elected secretary general of the 21-member Arab League on Wednesday, is a tough negotiator who believes in quiet diplomacy.

A lawyer turned diplomat, Abdul Maguid, 68, was Egypt's United Nations ambassador when he retired in 1983 after a long diolomatic and government career. Months later president Hosni Mubarak called him out of retirement to become foreign minister.

close ties with the United States and upholding Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel. He took part in the U.S.-sponsored negotiations that produced the treaty, the only one between Israel and an Arab

He is also known to support palestinian calls for self-determination' including statehood.

Born into a well-to-do family in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria in 1923, he obtained a doctorate in international law in Paris in 1951 and was twice ambassador to France. He was chosen for his

under the late president Gamal Abdul Nasser, he was head of the state information service. Nasser's successor, Anwar Sadat, appointed him minister of state for cabinet affairs in 1970 and two years later he was made Egypt's U.N. representative.

winning Egypt's case against Israel in a dispute over the 700-metre Taba border strip, returned to Egypt in 1989 through international arbitration.

He ran Egyptian Diplomacy as Arab states gradually restored ties with Cairo, broken over the peace treaty with Israel.

Egypt was reinstated as a full member of the Arab League in 1989 after a 10year suspension, and the league's headquarters moved back to Cairo on January 1 after 11 years in

Abdul Maguid is married

proposing or indeed imposing? **New Arab league** chief is a believer in

By Munir Boweti

CAIRO - Esmat Abdul

Abdul Maguid favours country.

first negotiating role as a member of the Egyptian delegation negotiating British evacuation from the Suez Canal. The talks led to the 1954 Anglo-Egyptian agree-

Abdul Maguid was then head of the United Kingdom desk at the foreign ministry.

As foreign minister, he has emphasised Egypt's commitment to peace with Israel. But in recent years he has become sharply critical of its treatment of Palestinians under occupa-

A milestone in his early days in office was the resumption of ties with the Soviet Union after a fiveyear break. He is partly credited for

with three sons.

LETTER

Raise your voices

To the Editor

"MESSAGES' from the omnipotent" published on May 15, was a well-written article that perfectly expressed my point of view and I dare say, that of quite a few other people of the silent A lot of decisions that affect our daily lives seem to be taking

place without our consent these days, and what is terrifying is that an escalating pattern seems to be emerging from the "omnipotent" powers that would like to dictate our way of life - what we see in our free time and who is allowed or not allowed to watch his/her children perform at school performances, which are mainly staged for parents in the first place.

I do not claim to represent the majority of the population in my opinions, but, after all, this is a democracy and every citizen has the right to voice his/her opinions. I am exercising my right and hoping that more people will do so before we are overwhelmed with decisions we do not approve of but which affect our lives drastically.

Hana Ramadan

This week in print

SEVERAL TOPICS ranging from James Baker's mission in the Middle East to the destruction of crops in the Jordan Valley as a result of irrigation with polluted water from the King Talal Dam were covered extensively by the local dailies

in the past week.

Ahmad Dhiban writing in Sawt Al Shaab was strongly critical of the three ministers who were supposed to attend a meeting with the valley farmers to discuss the problem and means to avert further disasters to the crops. Pained at seeing their crops dying and frustrated with the attitude of the officials who failed to turn up for the meeting, the farmers are not to blame for staging a protest march to make their voice heard, said Dhiban,

The writer said that the ball is now in the government's court and it is the duty of Parliament members to urge the government to act immediately. His views were echoed by Mohammad Daoud who said that by avoiding the meeting the ministers have complicated matters for the government

Writing in Al Dustour, the columnist stressed that the question of contaminated water reaching the crops was a serious matter that required solution on the national level, and by avoiding the matter now or postponing decisions can only aggravate the situation for the country as a whole.

Another columnist, tackling the situation urged the government to refer the matter to the judiciary and said that a court ruling can serve justice to all parties. Khalil Khouri said in Sawt Al-Shaab that the Jordan Valley is the main source for food supplies in Jordan and those responsible for the disaster there should face trial and get punishment while the farmers ought to be compensated. The farmers may have lost JD 60 million worth of crops, said the writer, but the country's food security is now at

Ahmad Dabbas in Sawt Al Shaab said that the factories along the Zarqa river which dumped waste that flowed to the King Talal Dam that irrigates the valley farmlands are to blame for the whole situation. Therefore, he said, a solution to the agricultural sector lies with the treatment of the waste water reaching the King Talal Dam, and the govfications for this matter and ensure their implementation.

Two columnists were particularly critical of government ministers who busy themselves with unimportant matters and tend to ignore the real issues and the real substance of problems plaguing the Jordanian economy. Salameh Ekour who writes in Sawt Al Shaab said that instead of tackling the issues of water contamination, the destruction of the crops in the Jordan Valley, the question of poverty and unemployment in the Kingdom and many other issues Parliament members and ministers are nowadays busying themselveswith such question as separating men from women in government departments, issuing orders as to who can or cannot attend the school sports events and whether school girls should or should not put on the veil. These people elected to do their job ought to find solutions for the country's real problems, stressed Ekour.

Another columnist, Tareq Masarweh, criticised the government ministers for giving conflicting views about the causes behind the destruction of the crops, and for failing to take prompt action to stop the pollution. Writing in Al Ra'i daily the

columnist also criticised the minister of education for barring fathers from attending youth activities in which their daughters take part, and the minister of agriculture for insisting on allowing goats to graze in forests while realising that the animals tend to eat off the trees and endanger the

The writer pointed out that these ministers' actions are doing no good for the country. His views were echoed by the editor of social affairs in Al Ra'i who said that the educa-

tion minister's decision contradicts the very principle of causing an interaction within the Jordanian society and has no educational objective nor can it be of service to Islam.

The education problem is for the whole Jordanian society to

deal with and not for the minis-

ter alone, the writer noted.

Writing on the same topic in Sawt Al Shaab Nidal Sukhtian said that the students taking part in school events are in deed encouraged to do so when they realise that their parents would be watching their skills and this gives im-petus to students to take part in more youth activities. The writer noted that parents take pride in watching their children involved in useful activities and the government should not take any step to halt such

human feeling.

At least one columnist tackled tourism. Mohammad Dacudieh noted that thousands of Iraqis are now making plans to visit Jordan in the wake of the Gulf war and are making arrangements to come this summer. Jordan which abounds with summer resorts and archaeological sites can only welcome such a move and open the way for the visitors who can stimu-late the tourism industry that lay dormant for so long due to the Gulf crisis.

But, he said, apart from visiting places of interest, the Iracis will be buying their needs and using our hotels and restaurants and national products. The writer called on the private and public sectors to make full preparations to receive the isitors and to offer all tourists the best that Jordan can offer. Another columnist tackled the

question of unsettled telephone bills and said that those defaulting are businesses and individuals who massed fortunes through the use of telephones for local and long dis-tance calls. Ahmad Dabbas said that by failing to settle their dues these citizens are stealing from public funds, a crime that should not be ignored.

The Arah League Council meeting in Cairo Wednesday was dised by Mahmoud Rimawi in Al Ra'i daily. The only candidate to the post of Arab League secretary general was Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Megaid, and in the light of the unanimous support on the part of the Arab countries of this candidate, one can conclude that Arab governments realise the role which Egypt can play in the Arab arena, and, therefore, Cairo is expected to act towards unifying the Arab ranks and ending divisions resulting from the Gulf crisis, said Rimawi. He said it is unfortunate to see Egypt pursuing the same policies adopted during the crisis and has not shown any sign of relenting yet.

There is a real and serious imbalance in inter-Arab relations, and one sign of this was recently manifested in Egypt's sudden decision to pull out its forces from the Gulf region regardless of the Damascus declaration which arranged for Syria and Egypt to retain forces in the Gulf, the writer noted. This situation, he said, requires immediate action to revive solidarity among Arab states and safeguard national Arab interests.

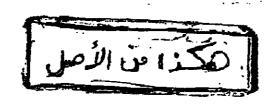
For Taher Al Udwan, Egypt's decision to pull out from the Gulf contradicted the Danascus dec-leration and the spirit of solidarity. Writing in Al Dustour Udwan said that Egypt's decision was moti-vated by dissatisfaction with the GCC policies which gave preference to the presence of American forces and the Kuwaiti government's refusal to allow Egyptian firms to have a share in the reconstruction of Kuwait. The writer said that the Egyptians will soon discover the grave loss the Arabs sustained by allowing the foreign nations interfere in their affairs and it would not be long before those Arabs who backed the American-led alliance realised

Several columnists tackled the latest tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Mustafa Abu Libdeh, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily described the on-going superpower efforts as part of a joint strategy aimed at dividing their spheres of influence in the region at a time when the American and Soviet leaders' political future is at stake. The writer noted that President Bush is faced with his role in the Irangate scandal and the negotiations with the Iranian rulers in 1980 on delaying the release of the American hostages at the U.S. embassy in Tehran until Reagan has been in-

stalled as president.
He said that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is faced with enormous problems at home and the coming few months could witness his downfall. Although the U.S. Soviet approach to settle the Middle East issue seems to be acceptable to the Arabs, it is threatened with total collapse at any time, said the writer.

Mahmoud Rimawi went a step

further by pointing out that the U.S. administration does not in-U.S. administration does not in-tend to implement the international legitimacy and the Security Council resolutions but aims to establish relations between the Arabs and Israel at the expense of the Palestinian people whose problem it considers as an internal problem for Israel. The writer noted that Washington is not only aiming at ending the state of war between Israel on the one hand and its Arab neighbours on the other, but rather to establish ties between Israel and all the Arab countries including those in the Gulf region. That delaying action in settling the Arab-Israeli conflict can only complicate matters and the lack of genuine and lasting peace can only create a climate for future conflict.



Western Europeans seek peacebroker's role

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO - In the wake of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's high-profile tour of the Middle East, Europe looked as though it was taking the back seat in the region. But a recent delegation sent by the Western European Union (WEU) to Cairo has reaffirmed Europe's will to play an active part in the search for peace in the Middle East.

Led by French Senator Robert Pontillon, the WEU Commission met Eygptian leaders and discussed the post-Gulf war situation, as well as ideas for future cooperation and development. Set up in 1948 and amended in 1954 to include West Germany, the WEU includes nine member countries. Operating in parallel to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the WEU long seen as a shadowy organisation with abstract amis is now gaining in importance, in particu-lar in France. As the representatives of the only European body with defence and security responsibilities, the 15-member WEU delegation to Cairo also discussed disarmament and collective security in the region.

While the London-based WEU generally keeps a low profile, its officials point out that in 1987, during the Iran-Iraq war, it helped ensure freedom of navigation in the Gulf. In the recent Kuwait-Iraq crisis it helped enforce the United Nations embargo against Iraq, as well as aiding coordination between the multinational naval forces. "It is not a well-known fact that we did a lot of the work in the Gulf' notes Pontilion, whose country currently holds the one-year revolving presidency of the organisation. "Half of the ships involved in enforcing the embargo were flying the WEU flag. Since April 30, we have been involved in 70 per cent of the mine sweeping operations, as well as coordinating aid to the Kurdish refugees."

In Cairo, Egyptian officials were eager to discuss future relations, in particular the impact on Egypt of the European Single Act of 1992 which will create a free market between the 12 EEC countries. Commented Pontillon: Our contacts at the highest level in Egypt revealed great coherence between the ambitions and views of both sides, 'Europe must be involved,' President Mubarak

Europeans and Egyptians agreed on the need for greater enforcement of international law in order to guarantee the rights of people such as the Kurds and the Palestinians. Pontillon stressed that the idea recently voiced by outgoing French Prime Minister Michel Rocard concerning the right to interference in the internal affairs of a country, in case of genocide, for example, is gaining support in international institutions. "Human rights violations affect the world as a whole," said Pontillon, "and the right of interference in the internal affairs of a state when human rights are concerned is a concept that can go a long way within the context of the United Nations. The U.N. system allowed for the operation in the Gulf and there is reason to hope that a Military Staff Committee could be established. The committee is provided for by the U.N. Charter, but it has never

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antagonisms. An international force could then be created to be mobilised at very short notice when needed by the secretary general. The Europeans are heading in the direction of this idea, and Egypt agrees fully."

Sir Geoffrey Finsberg, chair-

man of the British delegation and president of the WEU's Committee for Rules of Procedure and Privileges, explained: "The U.N.'s dream is to have its own police force. This has been impossible until now for many reasons, but as a result of the changes in the Soviet Union's position after it saw China align itself with the U.N. decisions concerning the Gulf crisis, I believe in the coming decade it will be possible to have a force placed under the secretary general without running up against the veto of the Security Council. But in order for this to become a reality, we must have trust."

Trust, say members of the European delegation, is a key element for the future of the Middle East region. "We have spent the past 40 years dominated by the logic of East-West tension," noted the Vice-President of the WEU, Spain's Miguel Ange Martinez. "I think we have already gone some way to adopting the rule of International Law. This is important progress in the context of the post-Gulf war era. We must take advantage of the cohesion in the international community and use the impetus to solve many other conflicts that

The Spanish official added that the emphasis must now be placed on respect for International Law. "We need to lay down the rules and set up the framework." he added, "This is in fact essential for progress in the development of international relations, and therefore of humanity."

In the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the European and Egyptian officials discussed problems such as Israel's continued policy of establishing settlements in the West Bank. Also on the agenda was the recent proposal for a regional conference and Israel's intransigence concerning the composition of the Palestiman delegation that would attend the talks, as well as the question of Europe's participation.
"It is impossible to ask one side

to make an effort when the other side is not prepared to make the same effort," commented Sir Geoffrey Finsberg. "That being said, we condemn the (creation of) Israeli settlements. But I must add that we must stop being pessimistic. Who could have foretold the rise of Gorbachev and subsequent events? This is an example of how one person has changed the nature of international relations. The point here is that we need to get a similar process going and start a thaw in relations. We must place our faith in intelligence and wisdom."

The WEU President Pontillon is adamant when it comes to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's demands regarding the composition of the Palestinian delegation that would attend the conference; "The WEU has never passed a clear resolution on this subject, so I speak personally," he indicated. "But I contest the Israeli government's right to choose the Palestinian delega-

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choose those who are to speak for them. I did not agree with the PLO's position during the Gulf war," he added, referring to the PLO's support for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. "At the same time, there should be no interference in the Palestinian people's choice of their own representatives. Neither Israel, nor any other country, has the right to decide who is qualified to speak in the name of the Palestinians and decide on their future."

In addition, Pontillon is critical of Israel's rejection of European participation in a peace confer-"We do not understand Israel's attitude and we do not accept it. Israel should not forget that Europe helped it establish itself in the Middle East. Nor should Israel forget that most of its leaders have ties to Europe." One point in favour of peace is that there is evidence of a growing discrepancy between the conservative Israeli government's policies and public opinion. For example, recent polls showed that 58 per cent of Israelis now favour ending direct rule of the West Bank and Gaza, up from 50 per cent a year ago and 46 per cent five years ago.

The WEU representatives exressed optimism concerning a final settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Manuel Soarez Costa of Portugal noted: "Our fundamental aim is to achieve peace and stability in the region, and this implies a solution to the Arab-Israeli problem, the Lebanese problem, the Kurdish problem, etc. This will have to be done with respect for the territorial integrity of the countries of the region. But peace is sometimes more difficult to win than war. We need to take it is stages and the first step is confidence. A 40-year-old problem cannot be solved overnight."

'We must break the confrontation pattern and react to questionable attitudes with firmness," Pontillon said. "We must establish a pattern of persuasion, conviction and confidence. Who would have believed four years ago that the Berlin wall would be torn down? It is true that the Arab-Israeli issue is emotionally charged and that there is uselessly aggressive behaviour. What is also true is that Europe wants to play a fully-fledged role in bringing about a solution ... the most important thing is for the two sides to meet and sit at he same table. Once that happens, the process will be on its way."

The French senator concluded that there is also work to be done in Europe, where he admits, public opinion is ill-informed on the problems of the region. 'For example, people do not realise there are really two Palestinian estions," he said, arguing that the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip pose different prob-lems. "The Gaza Strip alone presents a whole series of extremely serious human and political problems. Those same human rights we were talking about are being violated, and the European Community should react. I do not wish to talk about sanctions in this context, but I believe that a change in public opinion in our countries could finally bring some pressure to bear on Israel" World News Link.

Israeli 'tourists' in Cyprus kept happy

By Panos Poriclaous

LAST Thursday (May 9), the Nicosia District Court imposed a fine of 500 pounds per head on four Israelis for trespassing with intent to commit a felony. Upon hearing the ruling the Israelis smiled in relief. By now, the Israelis, who are used to having things their own way, must be back home and chances are that they are not just similing. They have every right to laugh at the Cyprus judicial system, the police and the government itself. This case cannot be casually dismissed as a simple incident as the light sentence imposed implies.

The four Israelis were not just trespassing on the night of April 23, 1991, They were meddling with the telephone junction box in the building that houses the Iranian embassy clearly intending to bug the embassy's telephones. Initially, the prosecution had filed charges against the perpetrators for conspiracy to commit a felony. loitering in suspicious

circumstances, trying to damage telephone cables, attempting to eavesdrop on the Iranian Embassy phones and carrying wireless transceivers without permission.

But the prosecution suddenly decided to drop all the charges, because, as Assistant Attorney General Loucaides said, the basic elements and facts were sufficiently covered by the trespassing charge! This line of thinking is truly incredible since it is not clear how a simple charge for trespassing, a civil offence, is the equivalent of a criminal offence which also carries clear political connotations.

But it is not just the court which should be blamed for letting the accused get away in such light fashion. The whole story made the police force look like the idiots and subordinates of a hand full of Israeli embassy security officials who single-handedly, and in complete disregard to existing procedures, behaved as if they were the local police

When the four Israelis arrived at court the embassy officials jostled journalists around to make room for the accused while Cyprus policemen stood by watching. The security guards are even said to have

carried weapons. And throughout this travesty of legal proceedings, the government kept a low profile as if intimidated by the Israeli show of arrogance and disregard of the fact that, after all, this incident occurred in Cyprus and the case was to be decided by a Cypriot court, not an Israeli court. Either way the Israelis got what they wanted. a favourably court ruling that dismissed the probability for embarrassment of the Israeli state abroad, while delivering a slap in the face of the Iranians

offended. Is this case of applying double standards, even of being racist? One need only consider what an Arab would have to go through in a similar case. Never mind the fact that he would surely be deported or jailed or that he would be considered a terrorist even before entering through the doors of Nicosia District Court. These days, the word Arab has skillfully been turned in to a synonym for terrorist

who have every right to feel

When Arabs arrive at Larnaca airport enroute to another destination, and have to stay in Cyprus overnight, they are stripped of their passports and made to sleep inside the airport. But this is understandable. After all they are Arabs. And for those Arabs who are so daring as to want to stay in Cyprus for more than one night, the police have more tricks up their sleeves. Policemen make regular visits to car rental areas and pick up customer catalogues. If an Arab name is on the list, the police are certain to pick up the guy's address, pay him a visit and give him some of the old Cypriot policy harassment that only an Arab is worthy of. But

this is understandable. Every

Arab deserves what he gets.

Now if the police were so clever as to pick up the names of Israelis renting cars - but of course they are not - they would have followed the four Israelis, who posed as couples on a tourist visit, and would have caught them in the act of preparing and carrying out the crimes for which they were accused. But they didn't presumably because Israelis are generally considered good people while Arabs are not. As a result. Arabs can be harassed even when they do not commit a crime whereas Israelis can harass everyone else even when they do commit a crime.

But this simple conclusion, though a bit stretched, is not the end of this story. Because the Arabs may be naive, but not so naive as to swallow everything. And although the Iranians are not Arabs, they are still bound to be unhappy with what has transpired in this case. Iran and a host of Arab countries are traditional friends of Cyprus who have patiently stood by us in international forums. Playing games with that patience is not good policy. Doing favours to the Israelis is one thing. But if doing so also means offending another friendly country, the whole art of international diplomacy for the government will sooner or later turn into a risky business.

Cyprus is not situated in the best part of the world as far as political differences go. By being part of the volatile Middle East, this country usually finds herself in the position of having to maintain a delicate balance between the countries of the area that are not odds with each other, and this is not a simple task. But punishing one iside even when it is clearly the victim, is now good policy. The Iranian Embassy has kept a low profile in this case and they should be commented for that unlike their Israeli counterparts who have shoved everyone aside until they got what they wanted. The Cyprus government may have good reason to worry - Cyprus

Kuwait lacks equipment, data to deal with environmental disaster

KUWAIT (R) — Birds drop from the sky as if shot, cattle keel over while eating contaminated grass. People in Kuwait are worried but the government is unable to assess the human health risks posed by oilfield infernos.

Nearly three months after about 600 oil wells were set ablase in the war, igniting one of the world's worst environmental disasters, the first are still sending up thick, acrid smoke containing tonnes of toxic gas and acid.

"I believe this is about the same size as Chernobyl ... the only difference is that toxic, not nuclear, gas is involved," Art van Remundt, director of the environmental group Earthtrust. said referring to the Soviet nuclear accident in 1986.

Assessing the potential health risk has become more urgent as the 400,000 Kuwaitis who either fled or were abroad when Iraqi troops invaded on Aug. 2 began flying back Saturday.

Some of the first to arrive said they would go back to Europe as soon as possible after getting their homes and affairs in order to escape the pollution and the summer heat. Jassim Al Hassan, a biochemist

who leads a group of 23 Kuwaiti scientists surveying the effects of the pollution, said their major difficulty was lack of equipment. "The problem is too immense

to be handled by Kuwait or regional authorities. The problem is international and we need the expertise of the world to take care of the situation," Mr. Hassan said. His Kuwait Environmental Ac-

tion Team is working with Mr. Van Remundt's Hawaii-based group, which until 1986 was called Save the Whales, to help the authorities identify and tackle the emirate's environmental prob-

Dubbing the pollution "killer smog," the Earthtrust team reports growing numbers of cows, sheep and donkeys dying in areas near Kuwait City from feeding on contaminated grasses.

Migrating birds flying over the Gulf are dipping into oil pools in the desert, mistaking them for water, Mr. Van Remundt said.

Birds fall from the sky after flying through the black smog clouds. Other birds as well as some animals blinded by the acids in the smoke are starving to death. White cats in the streets of

Kuwait City have turned grey. Sheep are black and the few patches of greenery around the oil fields have been covered with asphalt-like soot. "It is very bad. You have some

500 oil wells on fire. Some 100 have been put out but many are still gushing, pouring huge lakes of oil into the desert," Mr. Van Remundt said. He criticised the government

people could protect themselves, even though many reported they were feeling ill, especially near the oilfields. "The government is not that

for not offering advice on how

much aware of the problem, and that in itself is a problem to us," Mr. Van Remundt said. Mr. Hassan disagreed.

"A senior minister told me the pollution issue is among the government's top priorities," he said, while noting that the state was preoccupied with other pressing concerns 10 weeks after Iraqi troops left Kuwait.

Mr. Hassan said he was putting together a list of equipment needed to carry out research on the pollution.

He said the government was willing to spend millions of dollars on the equipment, without which no one could accurately gauge the effects of the pollution on the human population.

Mr. Van Remundt said the group was preparing a report calling on the government to put out the oil fires quickly, offer clear advice and instructions, and carry out environmental tests.



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Sanchez has not lost a set yet at Italian Open

said it robbed him of his serve. Andre Agassi couldn't wait to get off of it. But Emilio Sanchez says the slow red Foro Italico clay suits him just fine.

"I like it when its dry," he said, after reaching the quarterfinals of the Italian Open Thursday with a 6-2, 6-2 third round win over Wayne Ferreira.

"The surface is slow, but the ball still travels fast, and holds a lot of spin. It lets me do what I do

The tournament's ninth seed, Sanchez will meet Australian Richard Fromberg in the first quarterfinal match. Goran Prpic is slated to play Soviet Andrei Cherkasov in the second, followed by the inter-Argentine bat-tle between Alberto Mancini and Horacio de la Pena.

While the players seeded above him were eliminated in the first three rounds, Sanchez has not lost a set while quietly qualifying for the quarterfinals. "It may look easy," he said. "But it isn't. The guy I played today has a very good game. He just has a tough time finding his timing on clay."

The three consecutive wins have boosted Sanchez' confidence. "It feels good to have come this far," said the 25-yearold Spaniard. "Especially after I lost in the first round of my last two tournaments."

But the memory that Sanchez would most like to cancel is not that of his recent losses at Monte

ROME (AP) — Pete Sampras Carlo and Hamburg. Nor is it the rice Santoro. Santoro reached the 1986 Italian Open, where lost in the final to Ivan Lendl. It is his dramatic, gruelling, three-set semifinal loss to Andrei Chesnokov in Rome last year.

"I just don't want to think about it," says Sanchez, who has slipped to the 18th spot in world rankings after having climbed as high as seven last year.

"I know it was a great match, for both of us. But I was ahead all the time. I had my chances, and I didn't take them. And then, at the end, I lost in a tie break. It just didn't seem fair."

Both players were exhausted after the three hour marathon. A subdued Chesnokov lost the final to Thomas Muster in straight sets the following afternoon.

For an inveterate baseliner who rarely comes to net, Sanchez is a surprisingly sufficient doubles player. The world's fifth-ranked doubles player, he and his partner Sergio Casal led all teams on the tour with six titles in 1990.

In singles this year, Sanchez has won 15 matches while losing nine. Before his early exits at Hamburg and Monte Carlo, he reached the finals at Barcelona. losing to hometown favourite

Sergi Bruguera in the finals.
Bruguera waltzed into the quarterfinals of the Italian Open with a 6-1, 6-2 one-hour win over Argentine qualifier Christian

He will meet Frenchman Fab-

Yugoslavia crushes Faroe islands 7-0

BELGRADE (Agencies) — Yugoslavia hammered seven goals against soccer minnows the Faroe Islands Thursday to make partial amends for their shock home defat by Denmark earlier this month in the European Championship qualifying Group

The Yugoslavs, who had won all their four games until the defeat by Denmark, piled on the pressure from the start and were rewarded with a fine win.

It took them until the 20th minute to find the net but then the floodgates opened. Red Star Belgrade's sweeper

Argentine unwisely approached net, Bruguera registered his third Ilija Najdoski scored the first with a forceful header from a corner and midfielder Robert Fromberg reeled off 12 straight Prosinecki added the second four games after falling behind Italy's Cristiano Caratti 5-1 in the first minutes later.

Darko Pancev scored in the 50th and 74th minutes and in between his two strikes Dinamo Zagreb's Zvonimir Boban, probably the best player on the field, and Mallorca fullback Zoran Vulic also put the ball in the net.

Substitute Davor Suker blasted home a volley four minutes from the end to complete the rout. Yugoslavia now have 10 points from six matches in group four

with Denmark second with five points from four matches.

Finland beats Malta 2-0

Meanwhile, striker Petri Jarvinen and Jari Litmanen combined night to give Finland a 2-0 victory over Malta in a European Soccer Championship Group 6

Midfielder Marko Myyry crossed the ball from the right to the head of Nika-Matti Paatelainen who headed down to Petri Jarvinen at six minutes after the interval. Jarvinen shot into a low corner from a few metres for the first goal.

Kimmo Tarkkio found Jari Litmanen with a precise centre in the 87th minute for a header from close range to make it 2-0. The Netherlands leads the Group 6 with eight points from five games, one ahead of Portug-

al. Greece and Finland have four

points each, with Malta left at one point from seven games. Finland pressured Malta in the earlier stages of the first half without getting good scoring opportunities. Finland frequently tried to find the head of Paatelainen — who plays professionally for Dundee United of Scotland

head shots on goal with no luck. Malta's only first half chance came at 24 minutes after sloppy passing by the Finnis. Striker Hubert Suda shot from a good position in the penalty area but the ball went over the bar.

- but the striker had two hard

In the second half Malta tried to pressure the Finnish build-up a bit more, and the Finns were Jose Canseco. occasionally put on the defensive.

have to be considered the early favourite for the French Open, which begins on May 27. What surprised Graf at Flushing Meadows and Seles at the Foro Italico was Sabatini's

and hit with a little jump from the

Open and has been sizzling since.

She is currently the dominant

player on the tour and would

Instead, as she turned 21 Thursday, she is challenging the all-court game. Her game had always been computer that ranks Monica built around her heavy topspin Seles as no. 1, Steffi Graf no. 2 groundstrokes, powered by her broad "John Wayne" shoulders and Sabatini no. 3. And she's

"Players now look at me in mother way when they play against me," she said after de-But opponents now have to contend with a Sabatini who feating Seles in the finals of the rushes to the net. She has de-Italian Open last Sunday, her fifth victory in seven tournaments veloped a firm voiley, a more accurate serve and the ability, to The then went on to a night of use one of her favourite words, to

concentrate.

disco dancing on the town to And just to keep the others celebrate not only her victory but guessing, she has come up with a When Sabatini, who began well disguised drop shot, which playing tennis at the age of 7, was good for seven points in key situations against Seles. started on the tour in her early

"I'm using everything on the court now, everything is coming together," said Sabatini.

Experts attribute the change in Sabatini to Carlos Kirmayer, the former Brazilian player who took over as her coach last year. He succeeded Angel Gimenez, a Spaniard, who directed her for

Sabatini, No. 3, is playing like the No. 1

that?"

beat Graf in two sets at the U.S. "Of course she's enjoying herself, she's finally allowed to move around the court," said Lea Pericoli, a former Italian champion

and now TV tennis commentator. "They had her lifting weights and practicing the same thing day after day. What kind of fun is

As she prepared for the French Open, the next Grand Slam stop where's she been a semifinalist three times, the talk of the tour was who's really no. 1?

Seles started off the year hot, winning the Australian Open and two other tournaments. But she's showing signs of cooling down with back-to-back defeats in finals. She first lost to Graf in Germany and the following Sunday to Sabatini in Rome.

I always go by the rankings and they are calculated over 12 months and right now Monica in no. 1," said Mary Jo Fernandez during a break at the Lufthansa Cup in Berlin.

"Obviously though, Gaby is playing as well or better than the

Other opponents had similar olaudits.

Said Graf, who was dethroned by Seles as the world's no. 1 in

March: "She has so much confidence.

Gabriela Sabatini

she is using all the shots she has, just goes in and doesn't give up. That's a different attitude for

Sabatini's off-court manner is also more relaxed.

She now seems comfortable speaking English, even if she will never reach the heights of the talkative Seles, born in Yugoslavia but a longtime Florida resi-

As if to make her point, she switched from her tennis clothes to fashionable black leans and black sweater for her victory news conference in Rome.

Holyfield-Tyson battle is possible this year

according to Don King. For once, the master of hyperbole is right.

Nothing concrete has been set for a bout between heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield and Mike Tyson, the former champion and top-rated challenger. But both sides are confident such a big-money fight will take place this year.

"It's a little premature," said Shelly Finkel, an adviser to Holyfield who helps negotiate his fights for main events. "Don and I spoke a little Wednesday at the Cable TV convention and we both said we would like to make the fight happen. He said, 'let's do it' and I said, fine, it would have to be the right deal.' We will not just take a deal to make the

On Wednesday, King cancelled the Tyson-Donovan "Razor"
Ruddock rematch scheduled for June 28, ostensibly because Rud-

PARIS (R) — Odds-on favourite

Danseuse du Soir was a comfort-

able two lengths winner of the

Poule d'Essai des Pouliches -

the French 1,000 guineas — at

Danseuse du Soir missed the

break but was soon travelling

smoothly and, leading a furlong

out, easily accounted for Sha

Tha, the mount of Steve Cauth-

Sha Tha edged Caerlina, rid-den by Lester Piggott. into third

Ridden by Dominique Boeuf,

Longchamp Sunday.

NEW YORK (AP) — It is the dock withdrew to allow Tyson to fight everyone wants to see, pursue a fight with Holyfield. Ruddock's manager, Murad Mohammad, said Thursday the real reason for his fighter's withdrawal has Mohammad's oneyear suspension by the Nevada

Boxing Commission. "Donovan will not fight without his promoter," said Mohammad, who also was fined \$25,000 for an altercation with Richie Giachetti, Tyson's trainer, after the controversial ending of the March 18 Tyson-Ruddock fight in Las Vegas

King's timing in cancelling the bout is understandable. The International Boxing Federation, one of the three organisations that recognises Holyfield as champion, will hold purse bids in early June for Holyfield's next defence. If no contract is agreed upon by then, the champion would get 75 per cent of the purse.

IAAF denies row with Barcelona Organisers

that I could win.

LONDON (R) — The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) Friday denied a report of a rift with organisers of the Barcelona Olympics over the allocation of tickets at next year's

quarterfinals with a 6-4, 5-7, 7-6

man Henry Leconte.

Cherkasov, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.

from 3-0 in the third set.

Eric Jelen 7-6 (7-2), 6-1.

straight-set victory.

set to win 7-5, 6-0.

(7-5) victory over fellow French-

No. 6 seed Jim Courier lost to

Mancini won a three-set see-

saw match against Mark Koever-

mans 6-0, 4-6, 7-6 (7-1). The

Argentine, who won three qual-

ifying matches to earn a place in

the Rome draw, fought back

De la Pena beat Germany's

For Bruguera, the highest of

the four seeded players to make it

to the third round, the Miniussi

match seemed little more than a

training session. Solid on the

baseline, and dangerous when the

Cherkasov, who played a tough

three-set match against Italy's

Stefano Pescosolido Wednesday

night, had to shake off another

awkward first set to beat Courier.

the beginning," he said after the two-hour, five-minute match.

But after I was warmed up, I

started to move him around. He

was in a big hurry to make points.

so the pressure was on him. Once

I started making my shots, I knew

'It's always difficult for me at

The European newspaper, in a front-page story headlined Olympic ticket fiasco," said the IAAF were involved in a row over the distribution of tickets for the athletics events in Barcelona.

It said LAAF would have a showdown next week with the Barcelona Olympic Organising Committee (COOB) which, the paper said, was under fire for offering only 6.000 of the 60.000 seats in the Montjuic Stadium to foreign fans.

But IAAF General Secretary John Holt said the federation had a good relationship with COOB and was concerned only about obtaining tickets for affiliated athletics bodies.

"We have always had the most incredible help from (COOB director general of sports) Manuel Fonseca," Holt said.

U.S. BASEBALL ROUNDUP By the Associated Press

Mariners 3, Browns 1

ROME (AP) --- Gabriela Sabati-

In what can only be bad news

for the others on the professional

tour, the dark-haired Argentine

is no longer the hesitant, reserved

young woman who seemed des-

tined to fail to fulfill her poten-

having a good time.

her new frame of mind.

an impressive newcomer.

teens she was on everyone's list as

She won her share of tourna-

ments, including two Italian ti-

tles, and moved swiftly up the

rankings. But the big one, a Grand Slam title, chuded her.

breakthrough came. Sabatini

Then, last September, the

this year.

ni is finally enjoying tennis.

Seattle is six games over .500 for the first time since 1985, thanks to consecutive runscoring doubles by Tracy Jones and Pete O'Brien in the ninth inning Thursday night that gave the Mariners a 3-1 victory over

Cleveland. Seattle has own 10 of its last 11 games, while the Indians have lost eight of nine. Cleveland is 2-11 at home this season. Harold Reynolds, who has a

12-game hitting streak, singled in the ninth and Jones doubled in go-ahead run with a drive over centre fielder Mike Huff. "There's a lot of room out

there, and I thought it would be caught, especially when I saw him (Huff) react," Jones said. "But I had been 0-for-12 despite hitting some balls good, so deserved that one."

Cleveland starter Greg Swindell (1-5) allowed three runs; and eight hits in 8 2-3 innings. Swindell has a 2.61 err, but the Indians have scored two runs or fewer in six of his eight starts. Mike Jackson (4-2) pitched 2 2-3 scoreless innings.

Athletics 11, Orioles 5

BALTIMORE (AP) - Harold Baines continued his assault on Baltimore pitching with a threerun homer, two singles and a

Baines homered off Jose Mesa (4-4) in the first after walks to Rickey Henderson and

Joe Klink (2-2) pitched two innings of one-hit ball in relief of Kirk Dressendorfer, Baltimore lost for the eighth time in 11 games.

Angels 7, Yankees 0 NEW YORK (AP) - Wally

Joyner homered and drove in four runs, raising his Major League-leading average to .380 and fuelling two acts of frustration by the New York Yankees.

Jim abbott (3-4) scattered seven hits, walked none and struck out six in his fourth career shutout, his first since last July 13. Joyner, who went 3-for-3

with a walk and a hit by pitch, put the Angels ahead with a three-run double in the third off Eric Plunk (1-1). After his home run in the fifth, the ball bounced back on the field and right fielder Jesse Barfield threw it completely out of Yankee Stadium.

Brewers 6, Twins 3 MINNEAPOLIS (AP) Robin Yount and Dante Bichette homered and Bill Wegman won his first game in

almost a year.

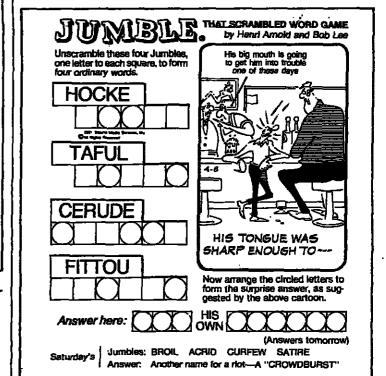
Wegman, who missed much of last season and all of April with an elbow injury, pitched victory since shutting out Oakiand 5-0 May 18, 1990. He allowed five hits, struck out two

and walked one. Alian Anderson (1-3) lasted just three innings, giving up six hits and five runs. He has not won since April 10, his first start of the season.

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West

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of .
"Curious hand," remarked the kibitzer. "Even if the finesse worked, declarer would have been no better off!"

Pass

North-South bid the hand well. Even though North's spade preference confirmed three-card support. game was still a touch-and-go proposition. To give partner a clearer picture of the distribution, South rebid the second suit to show at least five cards. North's king of hearts now became an enormous asset, so game was reached without further

West led the queen of diamonds and continued with the jack when declarer did not cover in dummy.

Saturday would now run in the French Derby at Chantilly on June 2 rather than the Epsom. Jockey Eric Legrix was given a four-day suspension for careless riding on fifth-placed La Carene and the filly was placed last in the field of nine.

place by a short head,

Winning owner Daniel Wilden-

stein and his trainer Elie Lel-

louche are enjoying a marvellous

run as they are already repre-

sented by unbeaten colt Pistolet

Bleu, who Wildenstein confirmed

GOREN BRIDGE

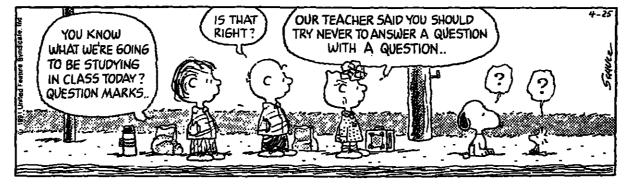
South ruffed, crossed to the king of spades and finessed the jack—the percentage play, if all declarer was concerned about was the trump suit. West took the queen and forced declarer with another diamond. Now declarer could not draw trumps without first setting up hearts. But when West grabbed the ace of hearts, another diamond

> and ended up down two. What declarer overlooked was that, as long as trumps broke 3-2, losing a spade trick would not jeopardize the contract—the hearts would provide enough discards from dummy to avoid a club loser. However, declarer could not afford to cash the top trumps before forcing out the ace of hearts-otherwise the defender who wins the ace of hearts might be able to draw the table's last trump.
>
> Correct technique is to lead a

> cooked declarer's goose. After ruff-ing, declarer had lost trump control

heart immediately after ruffing the diamond at trick two. West must take the ace or have it ruffed away Declarer can ruff the diamond continuation and eash the king and ace of spades. As long as trumps behave, the contract is home. Declarer leaves the top trump out and starts running hearts, discarding clubs from the table. The defenders are welcome to ruff with the master trump whenever it is convenient. Declarer simply returns to hand with either a diamond ruff or the ace of clubs to continue running hearts and eventually the club loser is ruffed in dummy.

Peanuts



Andy Capp







Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by Melvin Kenworth

1 Fr. author 5 Locale 9 River to the North Sea 13 NC college 14 Fr. compos 15 Maxim 16 Coin drop 17 Claim 18 Clan chief 19 Checks stock 22 Avail 23 Scot. river 24 Concrete unit 27 Jerk 30 Feds 30 Feds
34 Bursts of activity
36 Coleridge's
sacred river
38 "--- Got a
Secret"
39 Choice words
42 Indian
43 Cherry or ash
44 Soak
45 City on the Aar
47 Galena and
bauxire
49 Musical sign
50 Comic strip S1991 Tribune Med All Rights Reserv

50 Comic strip scream 52 — polloi 54 Time off 52 Strong point 53 Duck or excuse 12 Linguistic unit: 15 Court figure: abbr. 20 Offer 20 Offer 21 Got 40 winks 24 Flash flood 25 NBA member 26 Ibsen charact 28 Street show 29 Alling 31 Bisgings 32 Oust 64 Nutty one 65 Chaler 66 "—, poor Yorick" 67 "The King —

68 Night light 69 Wind indicator 70 Onus 2 — podrida 3 Glance 3 Glance 4 A.M. word 5 "...and — v 6 Poured 7 Alz. 8 Tops 9 Urge

31 bearings 32 Oust 33 Eur. land: abbr. 34 Ticket end 35 Stash mark 37 Actress Julie "— the ramparts..." Flight formation Tidy up 46 Tidy up 48 Medicine m 51 At any time 53 Portly 54 Solitary 55 Therefore

57 FDR's dog 58 isr. airline 59 Naneme's

60 Musical end 61 Geraint's beloved 62 Rooter

Yesterday's Pozzie Solved



Financial Markets

in co-operation with

Cairo Amman Bank U.S. Dollar in International Markets

New York Close Dart5/5/91	Tokye Elese Due 16/5/91
1.7545	1.7530
1.6840	1.6910
1.4250	1.4305
5.7145	5.7410 **
137.10	137.30
1.2200	1.2160 **
	C&c.sc Date 15/5/91 1.7545 1.6840 1.4250 5.7145

16:5/1991

Сигтелсу	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.87	6.00	6.12	6.50
Sterling Pound	11.93	11.56	11.12	11.12
Deutsche Mark	8.81	8.93	9.06	9.12
Swiss Franc	7.87	5.06	8.12	7.87
French Franc	0.12	9.12	9.18	9.31
Japanese Yen	7.84	7.78	7.62	7.40
European Currency Unit	9.37	9.43	9.50	9.68

Date: 16/5/1991 USD/Oz JD/Gm USD/Oz JD/Gm° Metal 359.75 6.70 , . 87 * 2! Karat

Date: 16/5/1991

Date: 10/3/17		
Bid	Offer	
7	.679	
97	1.1956	
12	.4032	
43	.4767	
82	.1158	
33	.4958	
51	.3579	
15	-1121	
39	.0542	
143	.01953	
_		

Date: 16/5/1991 Other Currencies Currency Bahraini Diner 1.7310 .0720 ebanese Lira⁴ .1801 .1820 aedi Riyal Kowaiti Dinar Qatari Riyal .1825 .1843 .2100 Egyptian Pound .2000 1.7100 1.7300 Omani Riyal UAE Dirtam .3550 .3750 Greek Drachma

Cypriot Pound

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THE RESERVE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF

Index	14/5/1991 Close	15/5/1991	Close
All-Share	113. 48	113. 24	
Banking Sector	110. 08	109. 52	
Insurance Sector	111. 94	112. 06	
Industry Sector	117. 67	117. 88	
Services Sector	123. 50	123. 39	

1.4400

1.4600

U.S. dollar

Canadian dollar

Deutschemarks

Dutch guilders

Swiss francs

Belgian francs

French francs Italian lire

Japanese yen Swedish crowns

Norwegian crowns

Danish crowns

U.S. dollars

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

1 7305/7405

1.7393/7403
1.1500/05
1.7035/40
1.9185/95
1.4430/35
35.03/07
5.7725/75
1268/1269
137.65/75
6.1160/1210
6.6300/50
6.5050/5100
354,50/355.00

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30, p.m.

valued its currency, the zloty, by ports," he added. PAP news agency said Friday. al.
In a move that signalled gov-

exports, the new rate of the zloty against the dollar was fixed at 11,100.

The move was decided at a late-night extraordinary meeting

Exporters had pressed strongly for a devaluation to make their products more competitive abroad but the government had resisted the move.

saw told the International Monetary Fund it would keep the exnge rate stable in order to hold inflation in check.

But PAP quoted Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz as saying a devaluation was now necessary in view of the dollar's strength and to keep Polish exports profitable. "In recent months we noted a

major growth of value of the dollar against other currencies which complicated the situation of Polish exports," he said.

This required a decision to increase the dollar's rate against the zloty, which should influence

Poland devalues zloty by 14.4 per cent

14.4 per cent after holding its rate Balcerowicz said he believed fixed at 9,500 to the dollar for that the inflationary impulse of more than 16 months, the official the devaluation would be minim-

The devaluation was ernment concern over a slump in announced hours before the domestic production and falling opening of a special conference called by President Lech Walesa to assess the past 16 months of austerity and seek ways of hauling the Polish economy out of

The conference, to be attended by prominent economists and experts, had been expected to exert strong pressure on the government for a devaluation.

Exports recorded spectacular As recently as last month, War- growth last year as Poland notched up a foreign trade surplus of \$3.4 billion with hard currency partners and \$4.4 billion roubles with the Soviet-led Comecon bloc. The current commercial exchange rate, used for foreign trade transactions, is 1.79 roubles to the dollar.

But the combination of a fixed exchange rate and high domestic inflation, 250 per cent last year, eroded the competitiveness of ex-

The Gulf war and the collapse of export markets in the Soviet Union and the former East Germany have also dealt powerful shocks to the economy.

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

May 11-15	May 4
JD 2.865,732	JD 2,518,08
JD 10,328,658	JD 12,590,42
6,801,184	8,157,58
5,770	6,56
Sectoral trading:	
JD 7,790,164	JD 7,380,00
(75.4%)	(58.6%
JD 1.311.252	JD 2,919,70
(12.7%)	(23.2%
(9.3%)	(15.1%
(2.6%)	(3.1%
133.7	133.
76	7
34	
30	2
12	
	JD 2.065,732 JD 10,328,658 6,801,184 5,770 Sectoral trading: JD 7,790,164 (75.4%) JD 1,311,252 (12.7%) (9.3%) (2.6%) 133.7 76 34 30

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO - Japanese stocks closed higher after five days of losses, pulled up in thin trading by New York's overnight rise of one per cent. The 225-share Nikkei average rose 181.67 points, or 0.71 per cent, to close at 25,701.94 with 260 million shares changing hands.

SYDNEY - Australian shares took a breather after vigorous buying Thursday spurred by a cut in official interest rates. Dealers said the bullish trend should return next week. The All Ordinaries index was down 8.6 points to 1,531.7.

HONG KONG — Stocks ended higher on a burst of late buying. The Hang Seng index climbed 23.18 points to 3,882.84, outstripping a previous post-1987 crash high close of 3,869.70 on April 3. SINGAPORE - Prices rose over a broad front to close at the day's highs in moderate trading despite some profit-taking in the afternoon. The Straits Times industrial index rose 10.69 points to close at 1,513.75.

BOMBAY — Share prices retreated to end mixed after a bullish start triggered heavy profit-taking.. The Bombay Stock Exchange index ended up 6.19 points to 1,207.69. The national index rose 2.12 to 642.66.

FRANKFURT - Despite lively demand in a small number of second-tier issues, German shares ended mostly unchanged in quiet trade. The DAX index edged 0.79 points higher to 1,598.87. ZURICH - Swiss shares closed little changed with a firmer bias. The all-share SPI index closed 2.7 points higher at 1,079.6. The blue-chip SMI index rose 4.7 to 1,659.5.

PARIS - French share prices ended barely changed, as satisfaction over the reappointment of Pierre Bergavoy as finance minister wore off and the market turned its attention to the fact that interest rates have not been cut. The CAC-40 index ended down a negligible 0.65 points to 1,826.96.

LONDON — Sporadic end-of-the-account buying lifted British shares from their lows, but the market still finished lower on disappointment at Friday's April inflation figures. The FTSE 100 index ended 18.0 points lower at 2,453.9.

NEW YORK - U.S. Blue Chips recovered some losses in late morning amid some futures-related buying as the bond market trimmed its losses. By 1556 GMT the Dow Jones industrial average was down 13.87 points to 2,880.14.

Show: 30:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Tel: 634144

Top Swiss banker tells Arabs not to fear new secrecy law

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) - A senior Swiss banker has assured Gulf customers that they would enjoy secrecy in Swiss banks, despite recent legal changes there.

'The Swiss banker's legal obligation to preserve the confidentiality of its customers remains unchanged," said Eduard Schmid, senior representative of Credit Suisse.

"The banks are obligated to precisely identify their customers" - not the conent of their accounts - under the new regulations, he said.

"The decision by the supervisory authorities to abolish the so-called Form B accounts has not in any way changed the content and significance of Swiss banking secrecy." Schmid told a news conference.

He said he had received phone calls from customers enquiring about reports that Swiss banks had abolished their secrecy. Billions of dollars from the oil-rich region are deposited in Swiss and other banks around the world.

But Schmid said any revision to banking secrecy would require either a national referendum or a parliamentary decree.

He said banks are still prohibited from revealing information about the affairs of customers to any agency or office.

Explosive mixture of poverty, riches marks Iraqi economy

By Walter Putnam The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - in Baghdad's 'thieves' market," so named because most goods came from Kuwait, top-line running shoes sell for \$10. Cameras, watches, jewellery are all bargains in the alleys and avenues downtown near the Tigris River - as long as hard currency is the medium of

But the Iraqi dinar has little power to buy food for households inhabited by the unemployed, another product of the Gulf crisis triggered by Irag's invasion of Kuwait last August.

Iraq's post-war economy has become an explosive mix of riches and poverty. Those with dollars can live like kings. Those without may soon be doomed to poverty as inflation and shortages

take an increasingly heavy toll. At the official exchange rate, one dinar is worth \$3.2. On the black market, a dollar can buy five or six dinars, depending on the trader.

The discrepancy widens the gap between the haves and havenots, adding to the undercurrent of uncertainty about how long the government can hold the country together

It also adds to the urgency government leaders face in getting U.N. sanctions lifted so they can trade again, free frozen foreign assets and sell \$1 billion a month worth of oil. It has the world's second-largest supply sitting in the ground.

The U.N. ceasefire agreement



Saadi Mehdi Saleh

allows Iraq to import food and medicine when it can afford to. But British Prime Minister John Major recently vowed to use his country's U.N. veto power to foil any further lifting of sanctions - apparently including oil sales - as long as President Saddam

remains in power.

Trade Minister Saadi Mehdi Saleh told foreign reporters recently that Iraq's recovery "total-

ly depends on oil. "The prospects of trade will be

sion of Kuwait. Without the oil sales, he said, life will be difficult but it won't be npossible to survive.

We are surviving from our internal production. We are surviving to defend out entity and our dignity," he said. Saleh said the black market

would eventually fade. "It depends on when we open trade, when we import more. This will reduce what we call a commercial market. It is not a black market. Actually, it's free trade." he said.

Still, inflation - which a source in the finance ministry said was 210 per cent from the end of the war in mid-February to the selves," he said.

people to desperate straits.

People are turning to crime. My house has been burglarised twice since the war started. People have to eat. What are they going to do?" said a businessman,

who asked not to be identified. Eggs and meat doubled in price from seven dinars in January to 11 to 16 dinars in April. That's a hefty bite out of the average income of about 200 dinars a

Amer, an engineer and builder, said a tonne of cement once cost 27 to 30 dinars. Recently, he bought it for 250 dinars and that was only because "someone did me a favour," he said. On Sheikh Omar Street, a long

stretch of auto parts and supply stores, business appears to be booming.

"Everything is available, but it is very expensive," one shop operator said.

Many people wonder whether parts for everything from autodependent on trading our frozen mobiles to machinery will be money," Saleh said of the billions available at all if sanctions conmobiles to machinery will be

tinue for many more weeks.

The economic woes are aggrain assets frozen after Iraq's invavated by joblessness caused by factories damaged in Gulf war bombing and sanctions shut-

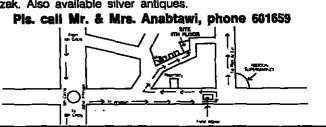
downs of other businesses. Recently, tens of thousands of young men were released from the army in a massive demobilisation by President Saddam and the ruling Revolutionary Command

Council. "Their best working life, between 24 and 30, has been wasted," said Amer, who predicted the added men on the street could lead to lawlessness.

"This will force people to look for business in not the straight way, in order to support them-

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is currently accepting applications for its

bilingual KINDERGARTEN

for next academic year

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- Britain's opposition Labour Party seized a once-safe Conservative parliamentary seat in a dramatic by-election victory Priday, fuelling its hopes of ending more than a decade of Conservative rule at the next general elec-

It humiliated the Conservatives in the poll for Monmouth constituency in Wales by demolishing their previous majority of 9,350

Labour's Hum Edwards, a 38year-old lecturer, beat the Conservative candidate by 2,406. "Triumph is the only word that

fits," jubilant Labour leader Neil Kinnock said. "We have taken a bedrock Tory seat.' The swing from the ruling party

of almost 13 per cent, if repeated across Britain in a general election, would return Labour to power and end the period of unbroken Conservative rule begun by Margaret Thatcher in

Her successor as Conservative Prime Minister, John Major, is beset by an economic recession and an inexorable rise in unempicyment but must call a general

WASHINGTON (R) — Soviet

use of regular troops to quell

internal unrest is eroding morale

and could endanger the integrity

of the armed forces, and intelli-

gence report to the U.S. Con-

The report by Defence Intelli-

gence Agency (DIA) official Pat-

ric! Duecy to Congress's Joint

Economic Committee Thursday

said draft evasions rose to record

propertions last year with over 29

per cent of inductees failing to

are being eroded by the use of

regular forces to quell internal

unrest, such as the frequent de-

ployment of airborne troops,"

He said recent events in rebel-

lious republics showed that use of

force against civilians had pola-

rised Soviet society.

"Military merale and prestige

report for the autumn callun.

gress says.

Conservative Party chairman Chris Patten put a brave face on the Monmouth result, saying byelections were opportunities for protest votes and were often "disastrous" for incumbent governments which then went on to win back power nationally.

Monmouth, which fell vacant on the death of a Conservative who had held it for 21 years, had been the party's second most secure seat in Wales. The loss still leaves the ruling party with a big majority in the 650-seat House of Commons, but was its fifth byelection defeat in a row.

The last Conservative byelection win was in February

Labour campaigned on a pledge to levy higher taxes on the rich and spend more on Britain's free health service.

In a bitter campaign, it portrayed Conservative reforms that allow some hospitals the freedom to finance themselves as a step towards a U.S.-style free market in health care.

The beaten ruling party candidate, lawyer Rogger Evans, accused Labour of "massive disin-

and cohesion," the report said.

challenges to central authority

are jeopardising the integrity of

But Duecy said that despite

recent turmoil in the Soviet Un-

ion, "The armed forces remain

the dominant power on the Eura-

His report, which was pre-

sented along with separate intelli-

gence reports on the Soviet and

East European economies, de-

scribed a Soviet military labour-

ing to maintain and effective de-

fence and a robust strategic de-

completion of a treaty limiting

conventional forces in Europe

(CFE) Soviet forces in the

Atlantic-to-Urals zone would be

positioned to conduct a strong

defence of Soviet territory and

It predicted that following

the all-union armed forces.

"Ethnic strife and separatist

Soviet military still dominant

as morale sags-U.S. report

sian continent.

Britain's economic recession has deepened since November when Major, 48, took after a revolt by Conservative backbench MPs which led Thatcher to

Monmouth voter Doris Williams, an 81-year-old widow, said she had switched allegiance to the centrist Liberal Democrats and away from the Conservatives who just cannot seem to sort themselves out on anything."

The Liberal Democrats came third with 11,164 votes in the Monmouth ballot, in which voting was held Thursday and the result declared early Friday.

Labour's vote held firm in its traditional strongholds in the constituency, such as the bleak state housing complex in Weysham vil-

"What's good about the Conservatives? My husband's been unemployed for 11 years and we have three children," said Dorothy Bowen, 25, of Vevsbam.

The British slump is blamed on high interest rates imposed to squeeze inflation out of the eco-

would probably not be sufficient

to defeat a reinforced NATO.

assuming NATO retained its full

entitlement of forces under the

Modernisation of the Soviet

strategic nuclear forces continued

despite budget reductions and re-

search and development were ex-

pected to display even greater emphasis on air defence, the re-

It said Soviet arms exports to the Third world fell last year by

about 30 per cent in value com-

pared to 1989. This was because

of less generous repayment terms

and because many customers

were experiencing their own eco-

sales efforts might also be hin-

dered by the image of poorly

performing Soviet weapons in the

Gulf war and increasingly stiff

competition. The decline was ex-

pected to continue at least to the

Duecy added that Moscow's

nomic problems.

mid-1990s, he said.

Figures released Thursday showed unemployment rose last month by 84,100 to 2.18 million, or 7.6 per cent of the workforce, the biggest April increase since World War II.

As Monmouth voted, Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont provoked outrage by saying higher unemployment was 'a price well worth paying" to beat inflation.

The Bank of England (central bank) warned Major against premature interest rate cuts.

Pakistani

assembly

Sharia law

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's

National Assembly, ignoring opposition protests, has voted to

make the Islamic Sharia Code the

supreme law for the country's 100

million people.

The Sharia bill was passed by

the 217-seat assembly by voice

vote after an acrimonious debate

in which the opposition de-

nounced it as fundamentalist and

The People's Democratic

Alliance (PDA) of former Prime

Minister Benazir Bhutto and

liberal Muslims say the law will

strengthen fundamentalism.

weaken parliament and block

progress on issues such as

women's rights.
Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif,

who steered the bill through par-

liament's lower house, denied women's rights would be infring-

ed. He said he had tried to

accommodate the views of

opposition deputies in the bill.

opposition charges that he had

brought in the bill under pressure

from fundamentalist Muslim cler-

ics who helped his Islamic Demo-

cratic Alliance (IDA) to victory

not happen under my govern-

ment that anaybody can get any-

thing done by putting pressure on

Sharif's eight-party IDA

which has big majorities in both

houses of parliament, says it is

fulfilling a pledge to enforce Sharia it made in October's elec-

The Sharia bill must be

Sharif offered an olive branch

approved also by the Senate (up-

per house) to become law.

power by election-rigging.

Bhutto, her husband Asif Ali

Zardari and several of her former

cabinet colleagues are facing trial

on disputed charges of corruption

during her 20-month government

that was dismissed by President

Ghulam Ishaq Khan, last August.

ginal draft of the Sharia bill and

ruled that the present parliamen-

tary democratic system and the

existing system of government

would not be challenged in any

court after the bill became law.

the PDA. Bhutto was not in the

Some of Sharif's fundamental-

ist allies say the bil is too weak

because it sidesteps their demand

to control an Islamic judiciary

which could overrule parliament.

to the steps for the Prophet

(Mohammad) because his era

(14 centuries ago) was the

best," Sharif's former Religious

Affairs Minister Abdul Sattar

"Yes, we want to go backwards

chamber when Sharif spoke.

But the move has not appeased

The assembly softened an ori-

"This is totally wrong. This will

in last October's election.

me," he said.

tion campaign.

after the vote.

Sharif specifically denied

passes

undemocratic.

Nationally, Labour led the Conservatives by 40 points to 38 in a "poli of polls" reported by the British Broadcasting Corporation's Newsnight television programme Thursday.

It was the first time Labour had led in this sample, taken by four opinion polisters, since Major succeeded Thatcher. There had been speculation

before the Monmouth vote that Major might gamble on a snap general election this June. But Conservative Chairman Patten said on television that he saw a "jolly strong argument" for

Hun Sen Cambodian troops to observe

waiting until next year.

truce

BANGKOK (R) - Prime Minister Hun Sen has given a personal pledge to a United Nations envoy that government forces will maintain a ceasefire in Cambodia, but his guerrilla foes Friday accused Phnom Penh of launching a fresh offensive.

Major General Timothy Dibuama, leader of a three-man U.N. truce-monitoring team, told reporters that despite initial re-ports of violations "things have quietened down a great deal." He had just returned from

Phnom Penh, last leg of a mission that also took him to guerrilla camps along the Thai-Cambodian border.

The ceasefire, the first in 12 years of warfare, is aimed at fostering a better atmosphere for the next round of talks on a U.N. peace plan that are expected to take place in the Indonesian capital Jakarta next month.

I can say to you that the authorities (in Phnom Penh) are fully committed to observing the ceasefire up to the Jakarta meet-ing and even far beyond," Dibuama said. A guerrilla official in Bangkok

said about 3,000 government troops backed by tanks and artillery were trying to drive Prince Norodom Sihanouk's forces out of areas along Route Six, the main west-east highway. The Sihanoukists are allied

with the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge and the U.S.-backed Khmer People's National Liberation Front against the Phnom Penh government supported by

Heavy combat had taken place around the towns of Stueng and Chikreng in central Kompong Thom province since Tuesday, the official said.

"Our presence there is bothersome for them because it cuts the road." he said.

Phnom Penh has accused the guerrillas of mounting attacks and artillery bombardments in the western provinces of Battambang, Siem Reap and Banteay-Meanchey as well as in coastal

Police defuse bombs in central Johannesburg JOHANNESBURG (R) -South African police defused two

bombs early Friday, one hidden in a car outside the main police station and the other outside a bank in central Johannesburg. Police spokesman Eugene Opperman said police believed

the two mines were linked to a blast that tore through a restaurant in Johannesburg's Hillbrow nightclub district Thursday evening, injuring eight men, three of them seriously.

"Two limpet mines, one

John Vorster Square Police Headquarters, the other on 2 pavement outside Volskas Bank, were rendered harmless by police

this morning," Opperman told Opperman said one of the s was of Soviet origin.

Right-wing militants claimed responsibility for half a dozen bomb attacks on anti-apartheid targets around the city a year ago. The attacks caused injuries and damage but no deaths.

Government change closely tied to Mitterrand succession

PARIS (R) — New Prime Minister Edith Cresson's appointment of a cabinet hardly changed from the last appears to confirm that France's change of premiers is closely tied to the succession of President Francois Mitterrand.

Cresson announced her new cabinet late Thursday but kept virtually all holders of major portfolios at their posts, indicating no significant policy changes afoot.

The newspaper Le Monde, which has close connections to top French leader, said hours earlier that the appointment of Cresson, a long-time Mitterrand protege, was part of a plan to ensure the president's succession went according to his wishes. Le Monde said Mitterrand

named Cresson to thwart the presidential ambitions of her predecessor Michel Rocard, the president's long-time rival for the leadership of the Socialist Party. Mitterrand, who will be nearly 79 when his term ends in 1995, is widely believed to want to turn over the presidency to Laurent Fabius, another personal protege who served as his prime minister

from 1984 toi 1986. Le Monde said that forcing Rocard's resignation would enhance Fabius' chances of taking over the Socialist Party machine and ensure its backing for his candidacy as president, blocking

that of Rocard and other hope-Fabius, 44, current president of

the National Assembly, is already locked in conflict within the party machine with other presidential hopefuls like Education Minister Lionel Jospin.

Mitterrand said on television after appointing the 57-year-old Cresson Wednesday that he named her because she was best qualified to lead France into the ngle-market Europe of 1993. But an opinion poll published

Friday in the news magazine Le Point showed 53 per cent of respondents were not convinced by the explanation.

Some 35 per cent said they thought Cresson's appointment was really aimed at ensuring Socialist victory in general elections in 1993. Only small numbers believed other motives were in-

The victory of a Socialist in the 1995 presidential poll will largely depend on the party winning the 1993 general election and Cresson, France's first woman prime minister, is widely expected to be an ideal vote getter.

Many opposition parliamentarians have already called Cresson's appointment a "media gimmick" aimed at garnering the support of women, who outnum ber men among voters.

Students, police clash on eve of Korean anniversary

KWANGJU, South Korea (R) - April 26 death of 20-year-old Hundreds of students clashed student Kang Kyung-Dae after with riot police in South Korea's being beaten by police during a southwestern city of Y-wangju Friday on the eve of the emotional anniversary of a failed 1980

to the PDA. "I am ready to The students hurled firebombs and bits of paving stones in hitforget our past confrontation in the interest of the country," he and-run assaults on the massed said in a speech to the assembly olive-drab lines of riot police assembled in the provincial capitai for the annual commemoration No immediate comment was available from the PDA which of the popular uprising in which hundreds died. accuses Sharif's party of taking

More than 8,000 riot police have been posted around Kwangju and authorities have warned they will use force to put down illegal rallies, which include virtually all the events planned by the dissidents.

"The law enforcement authorities will cooperate to the greatest extent possible to maintain law and order and provide conveniences for legal assemblies. Kwangju Mayor Lee Hyo-Gae said in a statement. "On the other hand," he

warned, "we have no other choice but to take legal action to protect the public against illegal or violent rallies which threaten the public peace."

The May 18 anniversary of the 'Kwangju massacre'' draws thousands of students and dissidents to this city of 900,000, a traditional centre of dissent in Korea and the power base of veteran opposition leader Kim

The anniversary has a special intensity this year because of the protest in Seoul Kang's death revitalised the

flagging South Korean dissident movement and set off weeks of the worst anti-government protests since 1987, when mass street demonstrations forced the military-backed government to concede democratic reforms.

The protests, which significantly have not drawn in the politicalhowever thrown the government of President Roh Tae-Woo into turmoil.

Meanwhile about 200 South Korean students attacked a U.S. army bousing compound in Seoul Friday with a firebomb. Military officials said there were no injuries or major damage.

Police used teargas to disperse the students from nearby Dongkuk University, who had demonstrated in front of the Hannam Village Housing Complex for about 90 minutes, a U.S. Forces Korea spokesman said.

He said the firebomb struck the library building in the complex but was quickly put out by the base fire brigade.

One student climbed over a chain-link fence and entered the compound but was captured by American military police and turned over to South Korean authorities.

About 43,000 U.S. service personnel are stationed in South

Lost 'Bermuda Triangle' squadron may have been found MIAMI (AP) — One of the Avengers off Florida, he noted.

Bermuda Triangle's deepest mysteries may be solved - high-tech explorers have located what appear to be the wrecks of five navy planes that vanished off Florida in 1945, one of the explorers said Thursday.

The five TBM Avengers, four of which appear to be in excellent condition, were spotted in 750 feet (225 metres) of water, about 10 miles (15 kilometres) off Fort Lauderdale, Florida, said Robert Cervoni, managing director of Scientific Search Project.

filled with excitement," said Cervoni. "We rushed out to the library and tried to read everything we could about the Bermuda Triangle."

The exploration vessel Deep See, armed with sonar instruments and underwater cameras, made the discovery in early May while searching for sunken Spanish galleons. The company released the information Thursday after filing their salvage claim in

Ryskamp granted the initial

ton, D.C., had no immediate The team's first priority is to send submersible robots down to

are indeed the so-called "lost squadron," which disappeared on Dec. 5, 1945, during a training flight from the naval airbase in Fort Lauderdale. No trace of the planes or the pilots was ever found after they apparently became disoriented

over the Atlantic. The disappearance helped build the myth of the Bermuda Triangle, an area bounded by Bermuda, Miami and Puerto Rico where ships and planes seemed to vanish myster-

Darcy, of the Kailua, Hawaiibased aircraft recovery company Wreckfinders, said that while in tial indications were positive, he cannot yet confirm the planes'

One link to the lost squadron is a number spotted on the sunken

'Four of the planes are in

relatively good condition," said Cervoni. "All the glass is intact, there's not much damage. But the flight leader's was broken cleanly in two.'

That raises the possibility that the lead plane, which had a shorter range than the others, ran out of fuel, and the others then ditched behind it. No human remains were visible in the sunken planes,

pilots. According to their final radio transmissions, they spotted

islands they thought were the Florida Keys, and believed they were flying over the Gulf of

planes, Darcy said, they may have finally realised they were over the Atlantic. A student leader had taken over the flight and may have had them within 10 miles (15 kilometres) of their home base when they were forced to ditch.

cy was vehement.

COLUMN

Saudi buys one of world's largest sapphires

GENEVA (AP) - The largest sapphire ever put on auction was purchased by a Saudi business man for 2.3 million, more than twice the presale estimate. The cushion-shaped sapphire weighing a massive 337.6 carats and set in a diamond and platinum mount in 1910 — was fea-tured at a Christie's jewellery sale in a Geneva luxury hotel. The purchaser, Sheikh Ahmad Has san Fitahi, owner of one of the leading Jeddah department stores, was quoted by the an ctioneers as saying he wanted to sell this "magnificent jewel in my country." The previous owner was not identified. Christie's spokeswoman Pauline Schaefer said that only four larger sapphire are known to exist, all in museums. They include the 536carats "Star of India" in the American Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. and the 548-carat-gem known as "Peter The Great's Nose," in the Green Vault of Dresden.

Girl survives 18-story plunge

MELBOURNE (AP) - A 6 year-old girl fell 18 stories from her family's apartment but suffered only a broken thigh and bruises after landing in a tree and bushes, police said. Police said the girl, whom they would not identify, had been standing on a chair looking out the living-room window when she leaned on the pane and it broke, causing her to tumble out. She was recovering well at Royal Children's Hospital, hospital spokesman Don Kin-

Author charged with trying to blackmail Jane Seymour

BATH, England (AP) - An American author charged with trying to blackmail actress Jane Seymour was freed on £23,000 (\$40,000) bail. George Menduza, 57, is charged with demanding £57,500 (\$100,000) from the actress. Police say Mendoza contacted Miss Seymour's sister, Annie Gould, at the actress's home in Bath, southwest England, and threatened to publish certain photographs, tape recordings and other material if he was not paid. Mendoza raised a fist triumphantly as Bath magistrates granted him bail, saying: "I'm innocent." He vowed to "tell my side of the story" during the trial, adding, "it will be a real shock-" er." Mendoza's bail conditions were approved during the hearing before Judge Colin Willis in chambers at Bristol Crown Court. Bath magistrates formally granted bail and adjourned the hearing until June 14. Mendoza, who spent just over a month in custody, has surrendered his passport and agreed to stay at a London hotel, reporting to police three times a week.

1,100-year-old tomb of Mayan ruler opened

WASHINGTON (AP) -Anthropologists researching tombs of the ancient Maya civilisation of Central America have found the bejewelled skeleton of what could be one of the last Maya rulers. Vanderbilt University officials said Tuesday by telephone from Nashville, Tennessee, they had talked with the anthropologists at the tomb near the present-day city of Pelen. Guatemala, who reporterd the startling discovery. Arthur Demarest, professor of anthropology, led a group removing stones inside a Mayan pyramid that found the skeleton decked out in a headpiece of mother-of-pearl, shells and jade, according to Tracey Ferrell, project administrator at Vanderbilt. The skeleton was in excellent condition, and workers are now uncovering it, she said. Elaborate pottery and obsidian knife blades lay nearby in the burial chamber. 'It's definitely a ruler of some kind," said Ferrell. "Obsidian was an clite material in the Mayan world because it had to be brought from far away." Obsidian is a volcanic glass. Knives made from the material were used in royal bloodletting ceremonies among the royalty, she said. Ferrell said the skeleton may be of that a king known to researchers as ruler 2. Demarest, who has been excavating in the area for two years, said in a report last month that the tomb was located near a monument, called Stela 8, that is dedicated to ruler 2. The Stela refers to his burial in the eighth century.

The prospect of wider use of would also be able to mobilise a strong offensive force in a few regular forces, if internal security forces proved insufficient, would But Duecy added these forces severely test military reliability Plast destroys room at

Soviet opposition offices MOSCOW (R) - An explosion tures collected in support of Yeltripped through a room at the sin's candidacy were stored elseheadquarters of the powerful where and had not been affected. opposition group Democratic Russia overnight, destroying documents but causing no casualties, an official for the movement said

"We are treating this as a terrorist act," she said, adding that no one had yet claimed responsibility.

Democratic Russia, which claims about 1.3 million members. is an umbrella group which helped catapult populist Russian leader Boris Yeltsin to power and is new backing his candidacy for the executive presidency of the

The official said the blast sev-

Aides to Yeltsin were not im-

mediately available for comment. Yeltsin is widely expected to win the June 12 election for the new post of president, which will give him a powerful base from which to challenge Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev for control of

There are several other candidates for the post, but Yeltsin's main rival is expected to be former Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, who resigned in January after a heart attack.

Current Prime Minister Valentin Paylov conceded Thursday that Ryzhkov was unlikely to win the poll, the first direct election of a top Soviet leader since the

erely damaged one of the group's document rooms late Thursday night. But thousands of signa-

his republic.

Angola truce violations 'will not destroy peace'

LUANDA (R) — Angolan authorities blamed UNITA rebels for three attacks, just hours after a de facto ceasefire in the 16-year Angolan war came into force. But UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi denied that his fighters

The government remained con-

fident that the war would end as agreed at the end of the month. This will not disrupt the peace accords. This time we really are certain of peace," Deputy Defence Minister General Antonio

had violated the truce.

Des Santos Franca told Reuters. Major Americo Valente, a spokesman for the Angolan Armed Forces General Staff, told journalists at a briefing in Luan-

"No ceasefire has been signed yet, so the period between ... May 16 and May 31 when the peace accords are due to be signed should be viewed as a period of truce under the general undertakings of the agreement

reached in Bicesse (Portugal)."
He said there had been three truce violations Thursday by rebels of UNITA, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola. They had occupied Monte Belo

in Benguela province, attacked

government troops positions 32 kilometres outside Bailundo in

central Huambo province and

bombarded another government position near Luena in eastern

Moxico province. But Savimbi, denying his men had violated the truce, told a news conference in Brussels: "There have not been bombardments ... everybody is complying

with instructions." For the first time since April Luena itself was quiet Thursday, although Valente said the general staff was concerned about UNITA troop movements on its outskirts and in the area of Caculama in the northern province of

"Under the terms of the undertakings, there should not be troop movements within a radius of 10 kilometres of the other side's positions," said Valente.

He added that the UNITA claim that Monte Belo had already been in their hands and was attacked by government soldiers was "simply not true." Foreign correspondents who

accompanied government forces in Luena this week reported

heavy UNITA artillery fire. Officials said the process of installing a lasting peace in Angola had only just begun. "The next two weeks will serve as an introduction to the idea that the war is over," Deputy In-

formation Minister Joao Miranda

Bear hug steals the royal Washington

show LONDON (AP) - Britons are watching the formal ceremonies of Queen Elizabeth II's U.S. tour but the star of the show by Thursday was the Washington great-grandmother who gave the British monarch a big bug.

"The queen was stunned when she was grabbed in a ribcrunching bear hug by a 16-stone (224-pound) great-grandmother," said London's 3million circulation Daily Mirror under the photograph of the queen smiling a shade fixedly in

Alice Frazier's arms. "At first she couldn't hide her shock but a smile soon broke out on her face," the paper said. Newspapers mixed stories and photos of the incident with stories about the prospects of Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of U.S. forces in the Gulf war, for getting a knighthood. Buckingham Palace refused Thursday to confirm or deny Schwarzkopf's

DIOSDECTS. Mrs. Frazier, 67, embraced the 5-foot-4-inch (1.6-metre) queen, 65, during a tour of a low-cost housing project Wednesday. "Dodge City hug," said the

Daily Telegraph. Another newspaper, Today, told the story under the headline, "Well hello there, Queenie." The coverage reflected the contrast with the British practice confining physical contact with

royalty to limp handshakes. "I thought the pictures were very touching," Hugo Vickers, a writer on royalty, said in an interview with Brita 's Sky Television Network. "I think that will be one of the pictures which probably lasts historically in the queen's reign.

stories in Britain on the first day of the visit when President George Bush forgot to activate a platform to raise the queen above the microphones he'd used for his welcome speech. "Two questions are occupying those Americans interested in the

royal visit," said the Indepen-

dent, a highbrow London news-

paper in its story from Washing-

The hug followed a flood of

"It was incredible - we were

Miami Federal Court. U.S. District Judge Kenneth

claim, although the navy has been granted a change to contest it, said Barbara Locke, an attorney for the company.

Navy spokesmen in Washingthe site to determine if the planes

The team's archaeologist, Ted identities with certainty. The navy lost more than 100 TBM

lead plane - 28 - the same as the number on Flight 19's lead plane, said Darcy. A second link s the letters FT visible on some of the planes, the navy's designation for Fort Lauderdale-based

Another positive indication is the number of aircraft. No other ditching of five avengers was ever reported by the navy, said Darcy.

Cervoni said. Flight 19 ran into trouble after the first leg of its training flight when the leader's compass failed and hazy weather disoriented the

Mexico, Darcy said.

From the position of the

Asked whether he believes in the Bermuda Triangle myth, Dar-

"Hell, no," he said. "It's one of the most heavily navigated bodies of water in the world, You've got some tricky currents, the Gulf stream - I don't think there's anything weird about it."

Cervoni said that while the deep see and the submersibles, which are being operated by Graham Hawkes of Deep Ocean Engineering, are sufficient to establish the planes' identities, establish the planes locations, actual salvage would require a barge and cranes, along with special chemicals and equipment to preserve the aircraft.

